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THE MINISTRY.

THE chief "topic of the day" on Wednesday last was the rumoured resignation of Earl Russell. The *Times* was the only journal that seemed to have received any information on the subject; but, while admitting that it was not in a position to affirm positively the truth of the rumour, it proceeded to discuss it seriously and at great length, as if it were perfectly well founded. A Ministry including such members as Mr. Gladstone, Lord Hartington, Mr. Goschen, Mr. Stansfeld, Mr. Villiers, Mr. Forster, and Sir Roundell Palmer, ought to be strong enough in the House of Commons; but if this phalanx of talent is secretly divided against itself, its apparent strength is only weakness; and it is now tolerably certain that the members of the new Cabinet do not work well together. The manner in which the disturbances in Jamaica were suppressed; the manner in which Irish Fenianism has not, by any means, been suppressed; the seeming impossibility of

dealing satisfactorily with the cattle disease, must all be causes of anxiety to Earl Russell. Then there is the Reform Bill, which Earl Russell seems bent on introducing merely for the satisfaction of his conscience and in order to redeem an old pledge. What sort of bill he will bring in cannot yet be known, for he has not yet discovered what particular injustices have to be remedied. But when a statistical account has been prepared of the present state of the representation, and of the extent to which it will be affected by the admission to the electoral privilege of such and such classes of rent-payers, ratepayers, and others, then Earl Russell will draw up his reform bill on scientific principles. He has resolved to administer a certain kind of medicine, and, before deciding in what quantities he shall give it, it is natural he should wish to know what is the matter with the patient. But this is the least of Earl Russell's troubles. His great difficulty is to get the political doctors whom he is obliged to meet at consultation

to agree with him and with one another on this same question of reform. Some would gladly have nothing to do with it; others—one or two at most, we should say—are afraid that Earl Russell will not give enough of it. If Earl Russell cannot satisfy the members of his own Cabinet, how can it be expected that he will satisfy either of the two Houses of Parliament? A nice little reform bill might have been presented, and Parliament might easily have been persuaded to swallow it, had not Mr. John Bright made his rash declaration in favour of a little bill, considered as the precursor of a big one. Mr. Bright's frankness, however, has alarmed a number of moderate reformers, and we should not be surprised to hear that Earl Russell himself had taken fright at it.

Whether Earl Russell has already resigned or not—and the rumour to that effect was no sooner published than it was met by a positive contradiction—it appears very unlikely that the present Ministry will last. It is cruel, no doubt, on the



LANDING OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS AT THE NORTH WALL, DUBLIN.

part of the *Times* to speak of it as if it had already broken up. Perhaps, in this case, the wish is father to the thought; and certainly nothing a newspaper could publish is so likely to damage a Ministry as the circulation of a report that it is either dying or dead.

What the Ministry would gain by the retirement of Earl Russell is not very clear. In that case, either another Liberal Government would be formed—partly out of the same materials of which the present one is composed—or else the Conservatives would come into power. The *Times* thinks it would be a good idea, by way of a change, to give the Conservatives a trial; but we doubt whether the Conservative leaders are themselves of that way of thinking. The *Times* would like to see them in office chiefly that the Liberals, after being strengthened by the bracing air of Opposition, might have the pleasure of kicking them out again. But this would scarcely suit the views of the Earl of Derby, who, according to his supporters, has quite decided not to attempt to form a Ministry until he can be sure of a good working majority in the House of Commons. Probably the Conservative Reform Bill of 1859 would be voted for by many members on the Liberal side of the House; but, even if Earl Russell goes out, there is really no chance whatever of Lord Derby coming in. According to the *Times*, the Duke of Somerset is the future Premier; or, at least, the Premier recommended by Earl Russell; but where Earl Russell has failed there is no reason to suppose that the Duke of Somerset would succeed.

Parties are now so strangely broken up that to form a Coalition Ministry that would really work would be a task of the utmost difficulty. There is no one party in the House so strong as the Conservative party, which, however, is not strong enough to stand alone, exposed as it would be to a combined attack from Liberals of all shades. A Radical Ministry, or a Ministry in which the Radical element should preponderate, is not to be thought of. Neither is a Ministry of pure Whigs. The discussion on the reform question will probably show that there is at least as much difference between Radicals and Whigs as between Whigs and Tories, and that it is impossible to frame a bill so as to obtain the approbation of the Liberal party in general. To propose an extreme measure would be to drive a certain number of Whigs into the Tory camp; to propose a moderate one would have the effect of alienating those Radicals who now support the Government.

Besides the Constitution itself, all sorts of things are out of joint just now, which Earl Russell does not seem to have been born to set right. We have a home difficulty in the cattle plague, an Irish difficulty in Fenianism, a colonial difficulty in the Jamaica insurrection, and we may soon have a foreign difficulty in the shape of the Eastern question, which recent events in Roumania are calculated to revive.

THE FENIANS IN IRELAND.

LANDING OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS AT THE NORTH WALL, DUBLIN.

THE first battalion of this splendid regiment arrived at the North Wall, Dublin, per the steamers Windsor (Captain D. Earl) and Trafalgar (Captain Hughes), at three o'clock on the morning of the 22nd ult., from Liverpool. The right division, including headquarters, was on board the steamer Windsor, under the command of Colonel Dudley Carleton, and consisted of 312 men, three staff-sergeants, and eleven officers, with six women and ten children. Colonel Goodlake, V.C., had command of the left wing, which arrived on board the steamer Trafalgar, comprising 280 men, seven officers, and twelve women and fifteen children. The right wing commenced to disembark about eight o'clock, and was followed by the left wing. At nine o'clock the battalion formed into line on the quay, facing the south side of the river. Shortly afterwards they marched by Beggars' Bush Barracks, where they are at present stationed, under the command of Colonel Carleton. A short distance below the Custom House Docks they were met by the splendid band of the 60th Rifles, which preceded them on their route to the barracks, playing a number of lively airs.

The 85th Light Infantry also arrived at the North Wall in the course of the same morning, and immediately proceeded en route for the Carragh. The two divisions mustered 719 rank and file, with the ordinary complement of officers and women.

STAMPEDE OF SUSPECTED FENIANS.

When it became known in Dublin on the morning of Saturday, the 17th ult., that Government intended to propose a suspension of the Act of Habeas Corpus, there was a perfect rush of Fenians—particularly of the Americans and those members of the brotherhood who had come from England—to escape from the city. The steam-packets sailing that day, and for some days afterwards, for Liverpool and Holyhead were literally crammed with passengers. The scene on the quays was most amusing, as not a few of the gentry who had been strutting about the streets with an air of vast importance for some time previously were evidently under the influence of intense terror, and palpably thought that playing at sedition was a very different thing from suffering for it by incarceration in prison during the pleasure of the authorities. They therefore deemed that their wisest course was to take themselves out of harm's way, and made off in large numbers accordingly. Our Engraving conveys some notion of the scene presented by the "skedaddling" heroes.

CAPTURE OF A SUSPECTED FENIAN COUNCIL.

Notwithstanding the exodus of suspected persons, or persons who supposed themselves to be suspected, the police have made numerous captures, not only in Dublin, but throughout the whole country. One of the most important of these seizures took place in the capital, and is the subject of another of our Engravings. This was no less an event than the capture of a Fenian council in sitting assembled, and debating probably how to extricate their sorrowing brethren from the meshes with which the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act had surrounded them. But while the day of deliverance dawned not for the captives the night of captivity was falling on the debaters. Whatever was the subject of their deliberations—whether they were thinking of raising the "flag of Ireland in a glow of hope" or naming the day on which the murderous work was to begin—it matters little. The police are at all times in such cases most unpleasant intruders, and it would probably puzzle the most intelligent of the council to take up the thread of their discourse. The circumstances of the capture are these:—Early on the evening of the 22nd ult. information was received by the police of an intended Fenian meeting to be held in Mr. Pilsworth's public-house, 133, James's-street; and Acting Inspectors King, 10 G; Giles, 8 G; Doyle, 6 G; and M'Dermott, 12 G; and Acting Sergeant M'Gee, 26 G, with a number of extra G men and constables of the A division, under the command of Inspectors Doyle and Flower, were directed to interrupt the pro-

ceedings. Accordingly, shortly before eight o'clock, the force above mentioned assembled in the neighbourhood, judiciously scattered and posted so as to attract least observation. King and Giles took bearings of the house, and, having satisfied themselves that they were on the right scent and that the council had assembled and were debating, communicated with the remainder; and dispositions were made for the attack, which, as there were known to be several soldiers within, it was anticipated would be resisted and that a fierce struggle would ensue. We should state that the room in which the alleged Fenians met was on the ground floor, behind the shop, and entered from two doors. The establishment consists of two houses. The police divided into two bodies, according to divisions, the G men being armed with revolvers and the A constables with their swords, which, however, were not drawn. On a signal given the doors at each end of the room were suddenly thrown open, and the police, on one side headed by King and Giles, and on the other by their inspectors, rushed in, to the astonishment and dismay of the gallant Fenians, who at once lost heart for the great conflict. As each policeman entered he seized a prisoner, and before the "council" had recovered from their consternation they found themselves fast in the gripe of sturdy policemen, whose towering height and stalwart frame put all thoughts of resistance out of the question. One of the prisoners, indeed, a man named Byrne, presented a loaded revolver at Acting Sergeant M'Gee, who, however, quickly deprived him of it. The tactics of the police were completely successful, as they deserved to be. On three of the prisoners were found loaded revolvers, and another revolver was found lying on one of the seats. Amongst the prisoners were ten or eleven soldiers in uniform, a man named Chambers, who had been a corporal in the 61st Regiment, but who had deserted nine months ago, and was in civilian's clothes, rather stylishly "got up;" and several other soldiers, either deserters or absent from their regiments on furlough. There were ten other persons captured, who, however, were allowed to go away, as they had apparently only gone into the house to drink.

As might be supposed, the news of the swoop of the police spread like wildfire through the neighbourhood, and in a very short time the vicinity of the historic fountain in James's-street was thronged with an immense crowd, a large proportion of which was evidently composed of sympathisers. These, it is needless to say, were surprised and disgusted, if not alarmed, and vented their feelings in indignant terms, confining themselves, however, to mere wordy demonstrations. In consequence of the large number of prisoners, the small available force to guard them, and the excited state of the crowd outside, Inspector Doyle did not think it prudent to attempt to convey them to the station-house without further assistance, and he accordingly dispatched Acting Inspector Giles to the Town Major for a military guard, and another officer to the neighbouring police-offices for assistance. Mr. Superintendent Ryan, Inspector Scally, Inspector Armstrong, Superintendent Howe, and others speedily arrived with aid, and also an officer and several soldiers of the 8th Regiment, from the Royal Barracks. Nearly two hours elapsed from the time of the seizure before a sufficient force came up, and during that time the noise and excitement had greatly increased. The prisoners were then marshalled, each one between two policemen, a guard of soldiers, with fixed bayonets, marching alongside; and in this order, followed by an immense crowd, they were brought to Chancery-lane station-house, where those who were not discharged were safely lodged for the night. In a short time after the crowds dispersed quietly, and the streets resumed their wonted quietness.

ESCORTING FENIANS TO PRISON.

The prisoners were subsequently lodged in Mountjoy prison, where some of them who wore plain clothes when arrested have since been identified as deserters from various regiments. These persons and those known at first to be soldiers have been handed over to the military authorities, to be dealt with according to martial law. It is stated that a large number of sworn Fenians have from time to time enlisted in the Army, with the view of corrupting the soldiers, and that the disaffected among the troops consist mainly of such persons.

The manner in which the Fenians are escorted to prison is shown in another of our Engravings. Every precaution is taken not only to prevent the escape of the prisoners, but to deter mobs from attempting a rescue; and these measures have hitherto been perfectly successful. A correspondent, writing from Dublin a few days ago, says:—

The beneficial effect of the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act is becoming more and more apparent every day. Not only have many of the wild and reckless adventurers from America who infested our streets a short time ago been quietly locked up, where they will be kept out of mischief until the present distressing and embarrassing state of things shall have passed away, but much greater numbers of them have precipitately fled from the country, and some are at present on their way to America, where their report on Fenian prospects in Ireland will not be very encouraging to the Transatlantic originators of the conspiracy. Although some prominent and guilty members of the confederacy may for the present have succeeded in evading arrest or avoiding suspicion, there is reason to believe that nearly all the leaders are in custody, and that, to speak familiarly, the back of the conspiracy is broken. If the authorities could only succeed in catching Stephens, I have no doubt that, for purposes of actual mischief, Fenianism would be extinguished, though the feelings which gave rise to it or created sympathy with it may linger long in the minds of the Irish peasantry.

Considerable quantities of arms, consisting of pikes, rifles, pistols, swords, daggers, together with dépôts of ammunition, are seized by the police daily; but the extent of these munitions of war seems utterly incommensurate with the large projects of the conspirators.

A FENIAN PROCLAMATION.

Copies of the following proclamation were posted on the bridge of Athy a few days ago:—

NOTICE.

God save Stephens. God save the Green. Woodhouse, hurrah!—Whereas a certain Act, called the "Habeas Corpus," has been suspended in the down-trodden Isle, I, by virtue of the same, can arrest any person or persons suspected of being an Irishman, or sympathising with Irishmen, and I can cast them into prison without judge or jury, or any trial whatever (God bless the mark), and I can send them to Spike Island or imprison them as long as I think fit, without even making known to them the charge preferred against them, or without their having broken the peace or committed any overt act whatever. (Oh! What liberty under the glorious British Crown!) I, therefore, command all my white slaves and serfs to return to their allegiance, or I shall make Ireland a Jamaica the second. I further command them to submit to every insult, such as the Protestant Establishment, Tenant Wrong, and English education, &c.

Given at Corruption Castle, Dublin, this 26-2-66, being the last year of our blessed, tyrannical, and exterminating rule in Erin-go-Bragh. God save the Green.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—The general meeting of the National Rifle Association was held, on Wednesday, at Willis's Rooms—the Duke of Cambridge, as president, in the chair. The report showed that there was a balance on hand of about £600 from the receipts of last year, and set forth the arrangements for the shooting at next Wimbledon meeting, one noticeable feature of which was that prizes are to be assigned to Belgian marksmen. It was stated that the receipts at Wimbledon were not so good last year as the year before, arising from the bad weather and the general election. His Royal Highness addressed some encouraging words to the meeting, and, after some discussion, the report was adopted.

SINKING OF A STEAMER OFF ERITH.—A collision took place in the river, off Erith, on Sunday morning, between the Minna steam-ship, with a general cargo, from Oporto, and the Ellen Sinclair steamer, outward bound to Newcastle, by which the latter-mentioned vessel sustained so much damage that she immediately filled and went down in the centre of the stream. The Minna belongs to Messrs. Robinson, of Mark-lane; she is an iron-built steamer, about 600 tons register, and was in charge of a pilot at the time. It is represented that she came in contact with the Ellen Sinclair, amidst ships, with such force as to stove in the whole of her side, the Minna herself also sustaining very serious damage, her bows also being stove in. The crew of the Ellen Sinclair, finding their vessel sinking, took to the boats and escaped, but were unable to save any of their clothes. At high water her topmasts are visible above water. She was 655 tons register, and was fitted with four water-tight bulkheads, and was engaged in the coal trade. On the occurrence being made known to the harbour-masters, steps were taken to guard the shipping passing up and down against running into the sunken wreck. The Minna's fore compartment filled with water, but she managed to make headway, and arrived off East-lane, Horseydown, in the course of the morning.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The debate on the address to the Emperor was begun in the French Corps Législatif, on Monday, by M. Thiers, who attacked the home policy of the Government, and demanded that individual liberty, liberty of the press, electoral liberty, and Ministerial responsibility, should be conceded as the minimum of the claims of the country. Count Latour followed in defence of the Government. In Tuesday's debate M. Latour du Moulin opposed the draught of the address, and demanded an extension of public liberties. M. Pamard maintained that the "crowning of the edifice" was impossible until its foundations were well established. M. Glais-Bizoin made a speech censuring the home policy of the Government, in the course of which he was interrupted by M. Rouher, Minister of State. This gave rise to strong protests from several members. On Wednesday M. Jules Favre censured the withdrawal of France from the Extradition Treaty with England, and said he suspected the existence of some political motive for that step. M. Rouher, Minister of State, replied that the measure in question had no political significance. Notice was given to terminate the treaty because it had no satisfactory result; but the French Government had not relinquished the hope of concluding a more effective treaty.

The graceful concession that the Emperor was supposed to have made to the Parisians, in stopping the mutilation of the garden of the Luxembourg, appears to have been no concession at all, and the proposed mutilations, as now announced in the *Moniteur*, are more extensive than those originally intended.

ITALY.

A proposal which was made some time ago by the editor of one of the journals for paying off the national debt by subscription, gains in public favour daily. An association has been formed to carry out the project, the presidency of which has been accepted by the Prince of Carignano.

POLAND.

A telegram from Warsaw states that an Imperial ukase had been issued permitting Jews who have received a diploma at a Russian or Polish university to enter the public service of Poland, with the enjoyment of the rights and privileges connected with the office of public functionaries.

TURKEY.

The statement presented to the Sultan by Mustapha Pacha upon the financial condition of the country having given great offence to the Ministry, his Excellency has resigned the presidency of the Treasury Council, and purposes retiring to Egypt. He is succeeded in his post by Kiprili Pacha.

ROUMANIA.

A sudden but bloodless revolution has taken place in the Danubian Principalities. On the night of the 22nd ult. a large body of troops invaded the palace of Prince Couza, at Bucharest, took his Highness a prisoner, and forced him to sign his abdication. This act was followed by the proclamation of the Count of Flanders, the brother of the King of the Belgians, as Hospodar of Roumania, with the unanimous consent of the two Chambers. The Count, however, has declined to accept the offer. The revolution was attended with no disturbance of public order, and appears to have been received with general satisfaction. Prince Couza has since been liberated and allowed to leave the country. He published an address intimating that he accepted the manifestation of the public will, and declaring that everyone should be regarded as a traitor who did not do all in his power to give effect to the wishes of the people.

There seems to be no doubt that the Principalities question is to be made the subject of a European conference. The Paris *Moniteur du Soir* plainly says that the Powers are unanimous on this subject.

With the deposition of Prince Couza passes away one of the creations of the Congress of Paris and the Crimean War. The Danubian Principalities were then invested with a virtual independence, and Colonel Couza, a noted agitator, was elected Hospodar of Moldavia in January, 1859, and of Wallachia in the February following. He brought about a union of both Principalities (for his own lifetime) in 1861, and the Sultan sanctioned the change. Wallachia and Moldavia then became one, under the title of Roumania. Couza was an ambitious man, and longed for a thoroughly independent sovereignty. Not seeing his way promptly to this, he resolved, at all events, to be master at home. Accordingly, in May, 1864, he accomplished a coup d'état after the approved Napoleonic fashion, turned the members of the Legislative Chambers out of doors at the point of the bayonet, and decreed a new Constitution, which, while apparently more democratic, left him really in the position of a despotic ruler. Since then, however, things have not gone well with him. Bucharest was but lately the scene of bloody riots, during which the Prince happened to be out of the way; and he got into difficulties with his Ottoman suzerain more than once.

HOLSTEIN.

General Gablenz, the Austrian commander in Holstein, has addressed an order to the Provincial Government of that duchy sanctioning an extraordinary convocation of the Committee on the Budget. General Gablenz, in this document, alludes as follows to the recognition of the Constitution of 1854:—"I do not hesitate to express myself in favour of the Constitution of 1854 as the proper basis for the future political organisation of Holstein, and I recognise in their full extent the obligations thereby imposed upon the Government of the Emperor of Austria."

THE UNITED STATES.

We have intelligence from New York to the 17th ult. The reconstruction question continued to be the chief subject discussed in Congress and in the different State Legislatures. The Reconstruction Committee had reported to Congress a Constitutional amendment empowering Congress to make laws securing to citizens of each State the rights of the citizens of the several States, and to protect all citizens in their right to life, liberty, and property. The same Committee had reported in favour of the admission of Tennessee on the ground that, having applied for admission into the Union, and her Constitution being Republican, she should be admitted on the same terms and for the same reason as territories are admitted. The Tennessee delegation, however, ask admission to Congress, and deny that the State was ever out of the Union, or that Congress can legislate for Tennessee as for a territory. In the House of Representatives a resolution re-affirming the Monroe doctrine, and requesting the President to take steps to form an alliance of the American Republics against French encroachments, had been referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Kentucky Legislature had agreed in condemning the Freedmen's Bureau, rejecting the anti-slavery Constitutional amendment, and demanding the restoration of the Habeas Corpus Act. To a deputation from the Virginia Legislature, to express the loyalty of the State and their approval of the President's policy, Mr. Johnson, among other things, said he believed that the right of the South to representation would soon be acknowledged.

In the House of Representatives Mr. George Bancroft had delivered an eulogium upon the life and character of Abraham Lincoln, on which occasion President Johnson, all the members of the Cabinet and of Congress, the diplomatic body, and the army and navy officials were present. In his address Mr. Bancroft censured the course adopted by England during the rebellion, declared that the Mexican republic must rise again, maintained that Austria was partially responsible for the intrusion of Maximilian, and made offensive comparisons between Mr. Lincoln and Lord Palmerston. These ill-timed remarks had given great offence to the diplomatic circle at Washington. The Austrian Ambassador had deemed it worth while to protest officially to Mr. Seward, who declined to receive the protest on the ground that the Austrian Government had disavowed all connection with Mexican matters. Sir Frederick Bruce had expressed his resentment by refusing to attend a dinner at which Mr. Bancroft was one of the guests.

O'Mahony and the Fenians had held a mass meeting at New York

to enlist the sympathies of America on behalf of the Fenians. The speakers denounced England as being equally the enemy of Ireland and America, and called upon the Federal Government for open sympathy. Offices had been opened at New York and Washington for the sale of Irish republican bonds.

CLOSING OF THE PRUSSIAN CHAMBERS.

COUNT BISMARCK and his colleagues, finding it impossible to work harmoniously with the Lower House of the Parliament, have closed the Chambers. This event took place on the 23rd ult., on which occasion the Minister-President read the Royal speech, as follows:—

Illustrious, Noble, and Honourable Gentlemen of both Houses of the Diet—

His Majesty's Government opened the present Session of the Diet, not in the expectation of the immediate solution of the pending Constitutional conflict, but in the hope that the strong desire of the Prussian people for agreement would find sufficient echo among the representatives to render possible the co-operation of the bodies of the State in the establishment of useful laws, and to alleviate by common action in the service of the fatherland the evils of the opposition offered by the Chamber of Deputies to the Crown and to the Upper House. In this hope the Government opened the Diet by desire of his Majesty the King, without upon its part affording fresh food to the disagreement or injuring the bases of a future understanding.

The first manifestation which followed thereupon from the Chamber of Deputies was a speech of its President, in which he gave expression to the hostile feeling of the majority of the House by baseless and provocative reproaches against his Majesty's Government.

The further action of the House was in accordance with this proceeding. It was not directed towards peace, but towards strife; not directed to the bills laid before it, but dedicated to the attempt to discover opportunities for attack upon the Government in directions which the Constitution has not brought within the sphere of action of the representatives, and with regard to which their efforts necessarily remained fruitless. In this way the union of the duchy of Lauenburg with the Prussian Crown, hailed with joy by the whole country, was disputed, and therewith the Constitutional right of the King to conclude treaties imposing no burdens upon the State. In this way an unconstitutional attack was made by the resolution of Feb. 10 upon the independence of the courts, guaranteed by Art. 86 of the Constitution, in conjunction with the attempt to injure the well-founded reputation of Prussian jurisprudence among the people, and publicly to assail the honour of a judicial bench, whose impartiality now, as for centuries, has contributed to the fame of our country.

By a further resolution the Chamber of Deputies has violated Art. 45 of the Constitution, and attributed to itself privileges of the Executive powers belonging to his Majesty alone, as it undertook to give instructions to officials with regard to the duties of their office.

In face of these assumptions the Government was compelled to ask itself whether results favourable to the prosperity and the internal peace of the country were to be expected from the continuance of the labours of the Diet. His Majesty wished the consideration of this question postponed until the Chamber of Deputies should have discussed a motion in which expression was given to the efforts at mediation of a minority. But the course of this debate has not been able to remove the apprehension of the Government that the country would be drawn into more serious disagreements by the course adopted by the Chamber of Deputies, and that the settlement of existing disputes would only be rendered more difficult at a future period.

To prevent this his Majesty the King has ordered that the sittings of the Diet opened on the 15th of January should be terminated. By his Majesty's order I therefore declare the Diet of the kingdom closed.

LOAN SWINDLERS.—The police have apparently got hold of two very dangerous swindlers. The men, who are young, call themselves George Esen and Charles Allen. They appear to have advertised in the country papers to grant loans. When applications were made to them they pretended to make inquiries, after which they announced that the loan would be granted. They forwarded a promissory note for the amount to be borrowed and half a check, and promised on receipt of the first year's interest to send the other half of the cheque. This they did in fact; but when the cheque was presented it was found that there was no account at the bank. They seem to have got a good deal of money in this way. Both men were remanded.

THE EDUCATION GRANT.—The Parliamentary grant for public education for the year is to be £694,530 for Great Britain, and £236,130 for Ireland. The former sum is £1452 more than the vote of last year; the vote for Ireland is increased by £10,547, the increase being in the item of salaries to teachers. The expenditure in England in the year 1865 was £360,646 on schools connected with the Church of England, £59,771 on schools connected with the British and Foreign School Society, £28,186 on Wesleyan schools, and £26,830 on Roman Catholic schools. The cost of the office in London in the year 1866-7 is put at £23,370, and of inspection in Great Britain £55,286, the inspectors being increased to sixty-six in number, with twenty assistants. The grants for building are still checked by the unsettled question of the conscience clause. The estimate for England and Wales for the financial year 1866-7 is for 916,722 day scholars at 9s. 1d. each, and 50,000 night scholars at 6s. The number of day scholars above six years of age individually examined in England and Wales in the year ending with August, 1865, was £561,326, or 66.19 per cent of the average number (848,044) attending the schools visited; and grants were allowed, without individual examination, on 146,680 day scholars under six years of age. The number of night scholars, each of whom is more than twelve years old, individually examined was 23,860, out of 33,304 attending, or 70.38 per cent. The result of the examination of the 561,326 day scholars may be stated as follows:—The percentage of children over ten to those of six years of age was 39.82 upon the whole number examined (39.49 in the previous year); but the children who, being over ten, were presented for examination above Standard III. was only 19.77 per cent (sixteen in the previous year), and who passed without failure above Standard III. 12.99 per cent (11.12 in the previous year) of the whole number examined. In Standard III. the examination in reading is by a short paragraph from an elementary reading-book used in the school; in writing, a sentence from the same paragraph, slowly read once and then dictated in single words; in arithmetic, a sum in any simple rule as far as, and including, short division. Where forty according to age ought to have been presented, and to have passed, under Standard VI. alone, the actual presentation and passes in the three higher Standards IV., V., and VI., taken together, were as follows:—In 1863, fourteen presented and ten passed; in 1864, sixteen presented and eleven passed; in 1865, twenty presented and thirteen passed. The number of teachers actually serving in aided schools in 1865 was, in England, 9586 certificated teachers, 837 assistant teachers, and 9356 pupil-teachers—an increase over the previous year of 549 teachers and 206 assistants, but a decrease of 843 pupil-teachers. The number of students in training-colleges in Great Britain was 2482 at the end of 1865—219 fewer than at the end of 1864. The total number of elementary day schools in Great Britain visited by her Majesty's inspectors in 1865 was 8434, an increase of 543 over 1864. They found present 1,246,055 children, in 1864 the number was 1,133,291—increased, 112,764.

THE LOSS OF THE LONDON.—The Commissioners appointed to inquire into the loss of the London have just issued their official report to the Board of Trade. It contains a careful and lucid digest of the evidence, and the result arrived at is that the loss of the ship and her freight of living beings was directly due to the unshipping of the engine-room skylight, by which the sea broke in and extinguished the engine fire. Had this not been so the engine-pumps would soon have cleared the ship of water. But how the skylight came to be carried away was very indistinctly brought out in the evidence. In the absence of competent evidence on the subject, they give Captain Martin all the credit for seamanship, conduct, and courage which his previous conduct had earned for him. Several improvements in the construction of ships had been suggested by witnesses, which the Commissioners report, and think deserving of consideration. The following translation of part of a letter from the Commissary-General of Marine at Lorient has been received by the Secretary of Lloyd's from Sir Anthony Perrier, C.B., her Majesty's Consul and Lloyd's agent at Brest:—"On the 12th of February last three bottles were found on the coasts of Quiberon and Lorient, containing six papers written in English, as follows:—The first paper.—'D. W. Lemmon. London, Thursday, Jan. 10, 1866. The ship is sinking—no hope of being saved. Dear parents, may God bless you, as also me, with the hope of eternal salvation! Second paper.—'Steam-ship London. They are putting out the boats.' Third paper.—'F. G. Hunkett. On board the steam-ship London, lat. 46.20, long. 7.30; lost boats, masts, and sails; ship leaking.' Fourth paper.—'We commenced our voyage on Saturday, Dec. 30, 1865. Sunday, in the Channel; Monday, in open sea; Tuesday, ditto; Wednesday, at Caws; Thursday, at Plymouth; Friday and Saturday, at sea; Sunday, bad weather; Monday, water from the stern comes into the cabins; the 9th, heavy damages; a boat lost. May we get home! Storm.—H. G.' Fifth paper.—'F. C. McMillan, of Lancaster, Tasmania, Jan. 11, 1866, to my dear wife and dear children. May God bless you all! Farewell for this world. Lost in the steam-ship London, bound for Melbourne.' Sixth paper.—'H. J. Denis to J. Denis Knight, at Great Seaboard.—Adieu, father, brothers, and sisters, and my... Steamer London, Bay of Biscay, Thursday, ten o'clock.—Ship too heavily laden for its size, and too crank; windows stove in—water coming in everywhere. God bless my poor orphans! Request to send this paper, if found, to Great Seaboard. Storm not too violent for a ship in good condition.' On the same day were found on the shoals of Quiberon a binocular watch, stopped at half-past ten o'clock; a woman's shift, two cotton sheets; two splinters of wood, having on them, in white letters six centimetres (2½ in.) long, the word 'London.' A great quantity of staves have been picked up along the coast. In compliance with instructions from the Minister of Marine, the above-mentioned papers have been sent to the Minister of Marine and Colonies."

THE NEW ATLANTIC CABLE.

DURING the last few days the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company have begun, in real earnest, work upon the new Atlantic cable. Little had been done since the return of the expedition in August last, as there was no reason why the cable should be ready very much sooner than it will be needed. The Great Eastern still lies at her moorings in the Medway, with the remainder of last year's cable on board; and this will again be used during the present year, when that part of the cable which will have then enjoyed a twelvemonth's rest on the bed of the Atlantic will be grappled for. Captain Anderson will once more have charge of the big ship, and he will again have the invaluable assistance of Mr. Halpin, the chief officer. Mr. Canning and Mr. Clifford will be, as in last summer, in charge of the laying of the cable, and Mr. De Sautey will be again in charge of the electrical department. Thus, so far as skill goes, there is everything in favour of the success of the coming expedition, which will set sail in the beginning of June, bearing with it the good wishes of all Europe. As at present arranged, the Great Eastern will carry the new cable, will lay it to Newfoundland, will there coal and return to the mid-Atlantic, where she will, with her consort, grapple for the lost end, the locality of which can be ascertained within a quarter of a mile through the observations taken last summer by Captain Anderson and Captain Moriarty. It is not intended that the part of the old cable which now lies in the Great Eastern's tanks shall be again stowed in her hold on the outward trip. It will be carried in another vessel until it is needed. The grappling will be done in this way. Three vessels, including the Great Eastern, will be provided with grappling apparatus. Last year, it may be remembered, the grappling was done with makeshift appliances. In fact, the grappling lines were only buoy ropes, and the swivels which broke while the cable was being hauled up were never intended to bear any such strain as that to which they were subjected. In the new grappling tackle there will be no swivels; perhaps even no shackles. Each line will be, if possible, in one piece, certainly not in more than two joined together by a strong shackle. There is, therefore, little fear that, if the cable is grappled, of which there can be no reasonable doubt in the mind of any one conversant with the subject, it will be brought to the surface. And there is the more probability of this because the cable will be grappled in three places, at intervals of about two miles. One vessel will grapple, and, if necessary, cut her end by means of a steel blade set in the grappling iron; the middle ship will haul up, and the third vessel will also raise the cable to lessen the strain. There will, therefore, be three bights on the cable, or two bights and an end; and this end will be prevented from slipping by the formation of the grappling iron in which the cable will be jammed. No one connected with the project appears to entertain the slightest doubt about the success of this section of it. When the end is recovered and a message sent through to Valencia, as a test of the electrical condition, the splice will be made with the cable now lying in the Great Eastern, and then all will be plain sailing, except in case of another accident similar to that of last year, when all would have to be done over again; but this would be the worst damage. If one grappling is successful there is no reason why a second should not be, and even a third and a fourth, if it should come to that. The laying of the old cable may, therefore, be considered a certainty, so far as anything about cable laying can be certain. But hope deferred will probably not make sick the hearts of shareholders beyond next July.

The new cable, which is to be laid first, is very different indeed in appearance from that of 1865. That was black, but not at all comely. This is fair to see in point of colour, but rough withal, and fibrous—to coin a word for the occasion. But, save that there is no dark composition soaked into the Manila hemp which forms the covering of the outer wires, this cable is identical with the last. So far, however, as strength goes, the new rope will bear a strain of from 15 cwt. to a ton more than that of last year; and, as is obvious, this additional strength may just make the difference between breaking and holding, if it should unfortunately be necessary to haul back to the ship at any time. The reason why it is possible to dispense with the composition for coating is that in the new cable the outer or protecting wires are galvanised. About 160 miles of the new cable have been already made, and when all the machinery is set to work, as it soon will be, the manufacture will proceed at the rate of 100 miles per week. By working overtime this immense speed could be nearly doubled; but of course overtime will be avoided, if possible. In all departments of the machinery the capacity has been much increased since last year. For instance, there are double the number of tanks which hold the core of the cable; and there is one new machine which alone turns out four miles per day of completed cable.

It is unnecessary to enter at any length upon a description of the process of manufacture, as the subject has been so frequently treated in these columns, but a short summary of the method may not be useless. The core is received from the gutta-percha works on great reels, four coats of gutta-percha enveloping the seven copper wires which form the conductor; and these reels are at once placed in tanks until required. An ingenious machine coats this core with Manila hemp, prepared with a composition; and this rope is coiled away in tanks until required for the next stage. The ends of the galvanised wire for the outer covering are united by scarf-joints, which are cut in a die, then whipped with smaller wire and brazed, so that the joint, if well made, becomes actually stronger than the wire. This wire is then covered with five strands of Manila hemp, of which four tons a day, spun and reeled on the premises, are now used, and this quantity will shortly be increased. The machines which twist these strands round the wire will produce from 160 to 180 miles per day, eight or nine miles being finished by each machine in the ten hours during which the men are at work. The unfinished cable, which we left in tanks, is then put on one of the large machines, and ten strands of this Manila-covered wire are twisted round it, the spiral being one in twelve. As it leaves this machine the cable is finished and is conducted to the large tanks, in which it will be under water until it is paid out to the hulks for conveyance to the Great Eastern.

In a mile of the cable there are, therefore, besides the Manila which holds the composition, seven miles of copper wire, four miles of gutta-percha, ten miles of galvanised wire, and fifty miles of Manila spun yarn. That is to say, again excluding the loose Manila which laps the gutta-percha, in every mile of cable there are seventy-one miles of material. Obviously, in putting such a mass together the greatest care is requisite, and Mr. Clifford and his assistants at the works of the company have plenty to do in looking after the men employed. The operatives who make the joints in the wire, and those who spin the Manila yarn, and those who attend to the machines that twist the yarn round the wire, use separate premises, and are not admitted into the works in which the core is bound with hemp and wire, and so completed. The men who coil the cable in the great tanks wear soft shoes, supplied to them by the company, and their weight has no appreciable effect upon the structure of the cable, which lies in white flakes that look not unlike ordinary Manila rope coiled down on a ship's deck. Every working day now for three months the manufacture of the Atlantic cable of 1866 will proceed.—*Standard.*

HUMBOLDT'S "COSMOS."—M. Buschmann, Royal Librarian, and member of the Berlin Scientific Academy, has presented the original manuscript of Alexander de Humboldt's "Cosmos" to the Emperor Napoleon, who has accepted this splendid gift. The autograph consists of five ponderous volumes in quarto, containing the corrected sheets from which the first edition of the work was struck at Baron Georges de Coilla's printing-office at Stuttgart. The great savant employed M. Buschmann to write out the work from his rough notes. He read, corrected, and enlarged the text so that each sheet is literally covered by the cramped writing of Humboldt himself, which in many places is so illegible that M. Buschmann was compelled to copy the whole for the printer's use. M. Buschmann carefully preserved the originals of each copied page, and thus possessed the five manuscript volumes with which he has presented the Emperor. His Majesty does not conceive that so valuable a gift ought to remain in his private collection of literary writers, and has therefore sent the manuscript to the Imperial Library.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

THE following recommendations have been drawn up by the Royal Commission on the Cattle Plague, and circulated to the local authorities throughout the country:—

DISINFECTION.

Recommendations on this subject may conveniently be ranged under the following heads:—

1. The cleansing of sheds, infected or otherwise; of markets, slaughter-houses, lairs, &c.
2. The cleansing of waggons, trucks, &c.
3. The disposal of manure or litter.
4. The disposal of carcasses of infected animals.
5. The disposal of blood, offal, and hides of apparently healthy cattle which have been killed after being in contact with infected cattle.
6. Precautions to be taken by butchers, inspectors, and others, who visit farms for the purpose of seeing or killing diseased beasts.
7. Further disinfecting measures which may be useful in infected or endangered farms.

1. The Cleansing of Sheds, infected or otherwise; of Markets, Slaughter-houses, Lairs, &c.—Wash the woodwork of the sheds everywhere with boiling water, containing in each gallon a wineglassful of carbolic acid.* Then limewash the walls and roof of the shed with good, freshly-burnt lime, adding to each pailful of whitewash one pint of carbolic acid. Sprinkle the floors, after well cleansing with water, with undiluted carbolic acid. Lastly, close all the doors and openings, and burn sulphur in the shed, taking care that neither men nor cattle remain in the shed while the burning is going on. Allow the shed to remain closed for at least two hours, then open doors and windows. About 1 lb. of sulphur is sufficient for a ten or twelve stall shed. The sulphur should be burnt in the centre of the shed, so as to get the fumes diffused everywhere. It may be placed on a shovel of burning coals. This process should not only be used in sheds where infected cattle have been kept, but also where there is any reason to apprehend the presence of infectious matter on the premises. When disease is in the neighbourhood it may be usefully employed once a fortnight. In cleansing sheds from which the cattle cannot be removed sulphur must not be used. In such a case follow the above instructions, omitting only the fumigation with sulphur. All markets, slaughter-houses, lairs, and places where cattle have been customarily collected, should be carefully and thoroughly disinfected in the above manner before they are used again, the manure, blood, and offal being treated as directed in sections 3 and 4.

2. The Cleansing of Waggons, Trucks, &c.—Well scrape the boards of the truck or wagon and burn the scrapings. Then wash everywhere with boiling water, adding some washing soda. Then wash again with chloride of lime or carbolic solution.

3. Disposal of Manure or Litter.—The most effectual way of disposing of manure is to burn or bury it; but if neither plan can be adopted it must be ploughed in. Before burying or ploughing it in, water it well every day for a few weeks with the carbolic solution, by means of a watering-pot or hose. When the disinfectant has well penetrated remove the heap to some neighbouring arable land, and immediately plough it deeply in, care being taken that the whole of it is buried. If there is no arable land available, place the manure, after the above treatment with carbolic acid, in a heap in a field, and consolidate by the passage of carts over it. After a final watering with carbolic acid, cover it with at least one foot of earth. If the heap has to be packed over, previous to being applied to the land, water it once more with carbolic acid and cover it again with earth. Carefully cleanse and disinfect by sponging with the carbolic solution all carts and tools used in moving the manure, and the boots of the men, as well as the feet and legs of the horses. After the manure has been removed from the premises, thoroughly disinfect the yards by the method given in section 1. Add carbolic acid to the liquid manure in tanks, in the proportion of one pint daily to every 100 gallons.

4. Disposal of Carcasses of Infected Animals.—Bury the carcass 6 ft. deep; cover it well with good quicklime, mixed with carbolic acid in the proportion of half a gallon to each hundredweight.

5. The Disposal of Blood, Offal, and Hides of apparently Healthy Cattle which have been killed after being in contact with Infected Cattle.—Carefully collect all blood and offal; mix with a little carbolic acid, and then bury. Hides and horns may be disinfected either by washing in a solution of carbolic acid or by soaking in a solution of chloride of lime. It is considered advisable by importers of hides to first remove the moisture by covering them for twelve hours with common salt before they are soaked in the above solutions.

6. Precautions to be taken by Butchers, Inspectors, and others who visit Farms for the purpose of seeing or killing Diseased Beasts.—The greatest care as to cleanliness is necessary in the case of butchers and others who go to farms to kill or see infected animals. They should never go near healthy beasts in their infected clothes. They should wash carefully, and dip their boots in the carbolic solution, and should thoroughly brush their clothes, sprinkle or sponge them with the same solution, and expose them to the air. In addition to these precautions, inspectors will follow the directions already issued to them. All persons who have been in contact with or near to diseased animals must also use similar precautions. All cloths and baskets used for meat should be steamed or plunged into boiling water after being used.

7. Further Disinfecting Measures which may be used in Infected or Endangered Farms.—Wash the cattle all over with a solution of 1 lb. of soft soap, a wineglassful of carbolic acid, and a gallon of warm water. This should not only be done when cattle have been near infected stock, but also when disease is in the neighbourhood. In the latter case it may advantageously be done once a week. Take a paint brush, with bristles about 3 in. long, and, having dipped it into the undiluted carbolic acid, well sprinkle the liquid over the floors of the cattle-sheds, the lower parts of the walls, and the droppings of the animals every day. Be very particular to have the farm buildings always smelling of carbolic acid, especially those sheds containing sick beasts. No care need be taken to prevent the cattle licking the carbolic acid, as it is likely to do good rather than harm. All clothing, baskets, cloths, tools, and utensils of any description may readily be disinfected by exposing them to the action of burning sulphur in a close shed while undergoing fumigation as directed in section 1. It must especially be borne in mind that disinfectants are of little use where cleanliness is not observed. The former must never be considered a substitute for the latter.

* Whenever carbolic acid is mentioned, it must be understood that either this or creylic acid may be used indiscriminately. These two agents are derived from coal-tar, and have the greatest similarity to each other. Of the two, carbolic acid is better known, and is in general easier obtained; but creylic acid appears to possess slightly more antiseptic properties, and is at present cheaper. The commoner kinds of commercial "carbolic acid" consist, almost entirely, of creylic acid. If carbolic or creylic acid cannot be obtained, chloride of lime must be used, in the proportion of 1 lb. to a pailful of water. Where chloride of lime is used, neither carbolic acid nor fumigation with sulphur can be employed with advantage; and the former disinfectant, though very valuable where the two latter cannot be used, is decidedly inferior to the combination of carbolic acid and sulphurous fumigation.

† Owing to its antiseptic properties, the addition of carbolic acid to the lime is strongly urged in all cases where it is suspected that putrefaction has commenced.

THE SALARIES OF CUSTOM-HOUSE CLERKS.—The Treasury has arranged a new plan on which the clerks in the Custom House are to be paid. The existing six classes, comprising in all 161 individuals, are to be reorganised in three. At present the lowest class begins at £75 and rises to £100 a year salary; and in the others, respectively, the maximum advances to £140, £170, £200, £250, and £300—the highest. Under the new scale the junior class will range from £80 to £140, the maximum in the two others being respectively £220 and £300—still the highest salary for the officers involved in the fresh arrangement. It is to be observed that the change augments the salaries of the youngest members, but leaves the pay of the seniors where it was; and, at a first glance, it is not obvious that the reform will yield much more rapid promotion than the plan it supersedes; while it appears to contemplate no reorganisation of duties with a view to reduction of numbers or greater efficiency of execution.

MRS. BROWN ON OMNIBUSES.—They certainly are public conveniences, as is what omnibuses means I've heard say; but I'm sure if you gets it one way you loses it another, for of all the beastly things to get into dressed decent it's one on 'em. I was a-go'in' to spend the day last week with Mrs. Elkins, as lives near 'Averstock'-ill, and is a party I've been bekown to this many a year, through her havin' a sister as was lady's-maid in a family where I know'd the upper housemaid as I took tea with frequent. . . . I looks out for the 'bus as I wanted, and at last I see 'Averstock'-ill, as I know'd it was my way. So I stops it and gets in, but the stiffin' hole as it was quite took my breath away—partickler as parties wouldn't move up, but I was obliged for to struggle up to the very top, and reglar stove in the crown of my bonnet agin the lamp as was there, and proved a leak all over my bonnet and dripped on to my cape. . . . It was as much as ever I could do to get that 'uns to stop, and when I did get into it I was that bad in my breath as I couldn't hardly speak. There was only three in it at first, as was a mercy, but it very soon filled up, and of all the rough lots as ever I see they was some of them the roughest; not but there was gentler parties, partickler two, as I took for ladies at first, but proved nought better than females in the long run, as smelt of liquor, though a-disguisin' of it in lemon-pear as they was a-chewin'. . . . I says, "Wherever is my puss? Why, if it ain't gone. No, here it is in the other pocket, as I could have swore I'd put it in the right hand." I opens it, and if there weren't nothin' in it, as I'd had put in eight shillins when I come out, and a lucky sixpence as I always keeps there. Well, I was that flurried I didn't know what to do. The coachman kep' a-hollerin', the conductor sayin', "Look alive." I didn't know what to do, and if I hadn't to borrow fourpence of that elderly party, as lived close by where I was a-go'in'. It's a mercy as I met with her, and she said as she was sure them two females as got out, a-pretending to be unbeknown to each other, was the thieves.—*Fun.*

THE IMPERIAL SHOOTING PARTY AT MARLY.
 "LE SPORT" has, as we have told our readers before, become a regular institution in France; and if our brave neighbours could only be induced to make it less theatrical, and not quite so much an occasion for costume, it might eventually be a really national institution. The Imperial party has just been distinguishing itself by a capital bout of partridge-shooting in the admirable little wood at Marly, between Versailles and Saint Germain; and could the shade of Egalité, or of either of the three Louises before the

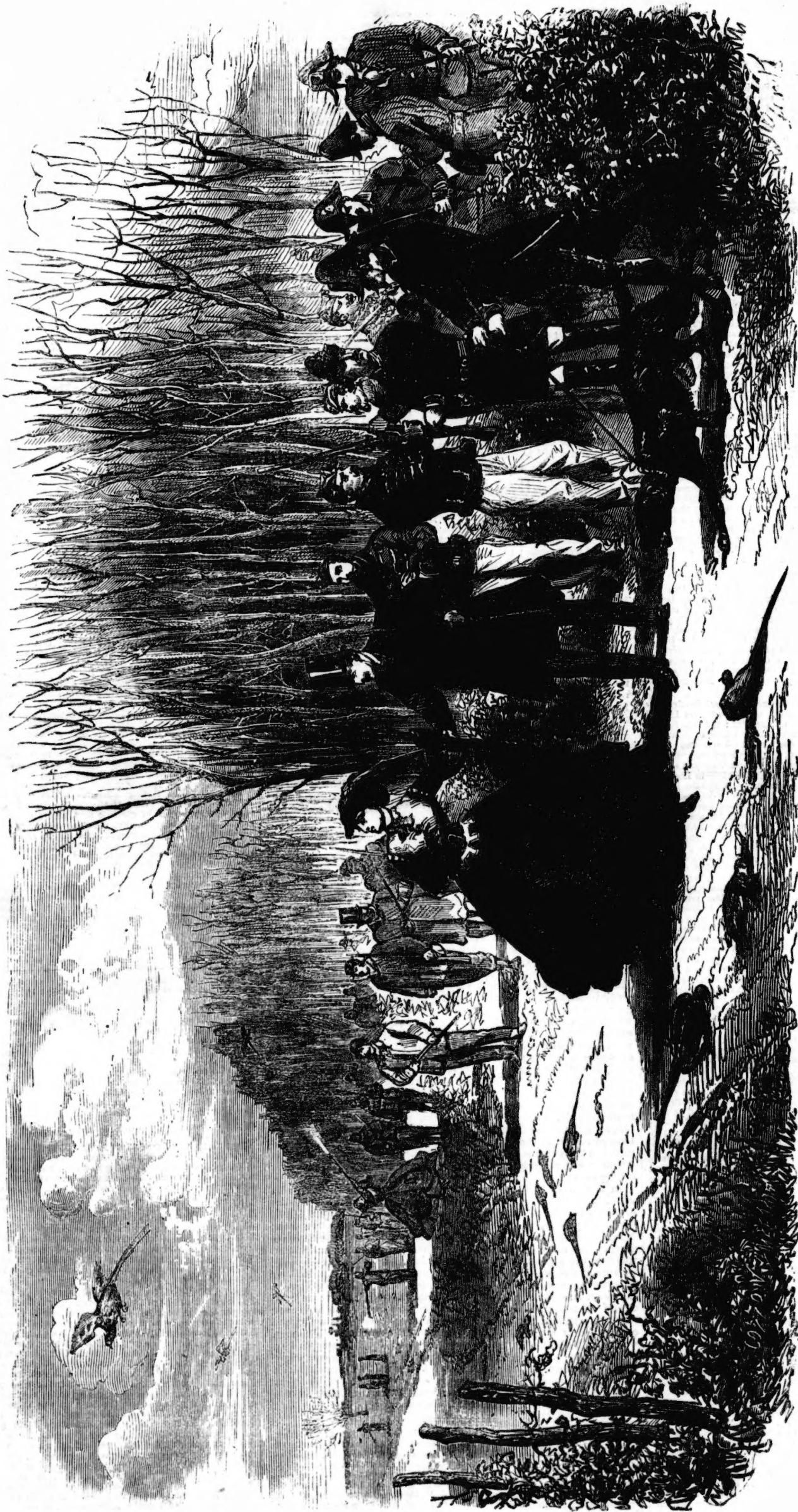
empire, have witnessed the hearty simplicity of the affair, it would have been a little surprised—if shades are ever surprised at anything—at the workman-like way in which the Empress Eugénie brought down her bird with the gun handed to her by her Imperial husband. But for the presence of one of those wonderful Dresden-china-looking, cocked-hatted keepers, with a tremendous hound tugging at a leash and evidently anxious to distinguish himself in an elephantine but utterly disconcerting manner, the whole thing would have been eminently respectable, even

though the covers were beaten up to the shooting-ground; and in the matter of costume the Empress set as piquant and pretty a fashion as could possibly be desired for any English country house in the shooting-season.

THE INVESTITURE OF LEOPOLD II. WITH THE ORDER OF THE GARTER.

Our Engraving represents the ceremony by which our Government has

done honour to the new King of the Belgians by investing him with the highest order in the gift even of Royalty, and the ceremony was performed at the palace at Brussels with all the pomp proper to such an occasion. There is no need here to recount the history of this order, especially as the only story which has been given in explanation both of the insignia and the motto is of extremely doubtful authority; but, whether the accident of the Countess of Salisbury and the reply of Edward III. have anything to do with its origin or not, the dignity is one which is so exclusive



AN IMPERIAL SHOOTING PARTY IN THE WOODS OF MARLY.

that the order consists now only of about twenty-six members. The costume of the order is a mantle of blue velvet with a crimson hood, a black velvet hat, a golden collar, and a "George" with a silver star. The garter itself, which is placed upon the left leg, is of deep blue velvet, upon which the motto is plainly inscribed.

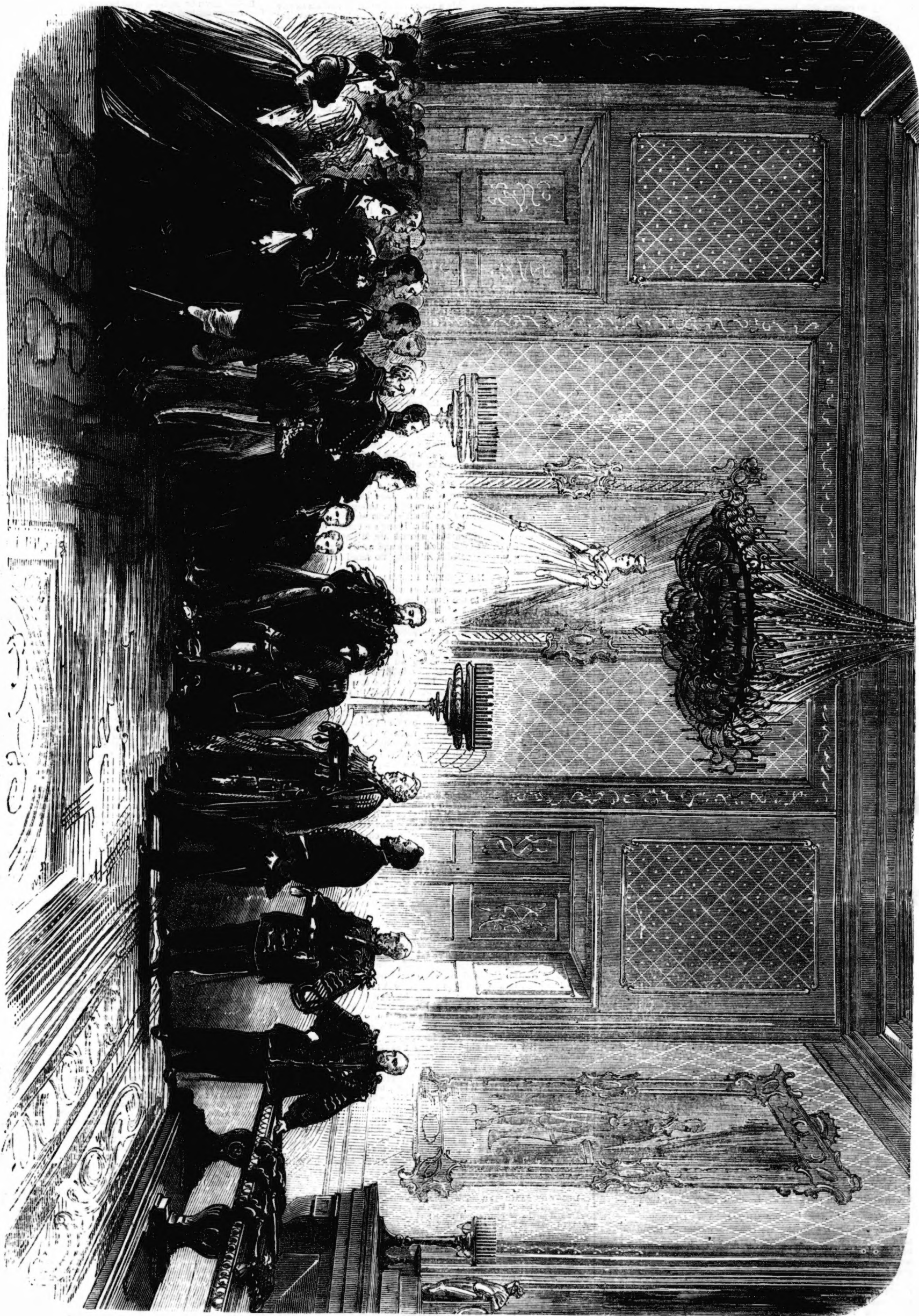
The Plenipotentiaries commissioned by the Queen to convey the decoration and insignia of the order to Leopold II., and named by Royal patent, were Viscount Sydney, Grand Chamberlain of the Royal Household; and Sir Charles Young, King-at-Arms to the most noble Order of the Garter.

They were accompanied to Brussels by Mr. William Courthope, secretary of the Commission of the Garter; Mr. Woods, Herald of Lancaster and special secretary of the deputation; and the Attachés of the Embassy. After an audience with the Majesty, the 12th of February was fixed for the ceremony, and at two o'clock on that day the Plenipotentiaries were conducted to the Royal presence by General Count D'Haus de Moerketke, Aide-de-Camp to the King. A battalion of Grenadiers formed the guard of honour at the palace, and the Embassy was received at the foot of the grand staircase by the officers of the household, and introduced to the state apartment by the Alde-de-

Camp—Viscount Sydney carrying the letters creating the King a member of the order, Mr. Jervoise with the robes, Mr. Courthope with the diploma, Mr. Woods with the garter and the George, and the Attachés with the collar, the hat, the star, and the book of statutes. His Majesty received the deputation in the Blue Saloon, containing the portraits of the Queen and the late Prince Albert in the costume of the order, and the Duke of Brabant, the Count of Hainaut, Princess Louise, the Count of Flanders, and other members of the Royal family and the Court were present, together with a brilliant assemblage of Ministers and their ladies.

Viscount Sydney, after having delivered a short address, explained the object of the Embassy, and conveyed to his Majesty the affectionate regards of the Queen; and the King, in reply, spoke feelingly of the token of esteem which the Embassy had that day come to confer him, expressing his conviction that not only he but the whole nation would ever cherish those sentiments of esteem for the English which so eminently distinguished his Royal father. The Plenipotentiaries then solemnly invested his Majesty with the insignia of the order. Our Engraving represents Viscount Sydney in the act of fastening the garter upon his Majesty's leg.

INVESTITURE OF KING LEOPOLD II. WITH THE BRITISH ORDER OF THE GARTER IN THE ROYAL PALACE AT BRUSSELS.



INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 271.

A NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SQUIRE.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE has for ages been famous for its squires and spires. There are probably more burly country squires in Northamptonshire than in any other county in England of the same size, and certainly no county can boast of so many lofty spires. Mr. Hunt, whose name has this Session so frequently appeared in the debates, is a North Northamptonshire squire, and is almost as tall as some village spires. The spires of his county, though, are light and elegant; whereas Mr. Hunt, though tall, is massive and bulky—more like a Norman tower than a spire. He has been in the House now nearly ten years. He was elected in December, 1857, on the death of the genial, clever, witty Augustus O'Brien Stafford. Mr. Hunt is, of course, a Conservative. North Northamptonshire has not for many years sent a Liberal to Parliament. Where squires and spires prevail, Conservatism is always in the ascendant. But though Mr. Hunt is a Conservative, staunch and true, he is not a blind party zealot, and he seldom mingles in strictly party conflicts. He was educated at Eton and at Oxford, where he came out second class in classics; and he studied law at the Inner Temple, and was called to the Bar. For a time he went the Oxford Circuit, but he does not practise now. Perhaps he studied law to qualify himself for the duties of the magistracy; or perhaps he lived by his profession till some turn of Fortune's wheel enabled him to live without it. However this may have been, he is now a Northamptonshire squire, living near Oundle, under the shadow of one of the loftiest of the Northamptonshire spires; and is M.P. for the northern division of the county. Mr. Hunt is not ambitious to be a party leader, though he will very likely be a member of the next Conservative Government. He rather aspires to be a legislator. He diligently watches the bills which come before the House, and keenly criticises them; and this Session has himself brought in a supplemental Cattle Plague Bill, and carried it through under unexampled difficulties—a feat which he never could have accomplished had he not combined in himself the lawyer and the Conservative squire. His knowledge of law was of great use to him. It enabled him to combat objections, to extemporise new clauses for himself, to perceive the merits of some proposed by other members, and to meet successfully insidious attempts to mar or to defeat his bill; whilst the fact that he is a Conservative squire, working especially for the interests of squires, brought down all squiredom to back him. Never of late years have we seen squiredom down in such force thus early in a Session, and so lively and determined. As soon as the House opened, the squires were present; and not until the bill was safe for the night did the solid phalanx break up and disperse. And how vigorously and unflinchingly they fought! The myrmidons of Achilles did not more efficiently support their chief than the squires supported Mr. Hunt. When talking was to be done, up jumped a dozen ready to talk; when division and not talking was the word, then talking was effectually put down, as squiredom alone can do it; and when the time came to divide, it was beautiful to see how compactly the phalanx of the squires marched after their chief into the lobby. Mr. Hunt, then, was, as a rule, invincible. There was, however, one exception to the rule. Mr. Hunt, confident in his strength, proposed a clause to the effect that all imported cattle should be slaughtered immediately on their landing at the port. He did this, he said, more effectually to "stamp out" the disease. "Yes, but you will stamp out our trade!" was the reply of the city and borough members. How, for example, can all the cattle imported into London, Liverpool, Glasgow, &c., be slaughtered at the port? But Mr. Hunt, with that solid phalanx behind him, would listen to no reason, and, rushing blindly into the battle, was beaten by a majority of 54. You see, readers, all the Conservative squires do not represent counties; many of them are members for cities and boroughs, and, much as they loved Conservatism and Mr. Hunt, they loved their Parliamentary position more, and, having the fear of their constituents before their eyes, when the division was called these wheeled round, joined the opposing ranks, and Mr. Hunt, miscalculating his strength, was utterly routed. Nevertheless, Mr. Hunt went on with his bill, and on Saturday morning, at one o'clock, after one of the severest struggles of modern times, it was read a third time and passed. Whether it will pass the Upper House in its present condition is questionable. Indeed, men say that it has been so patched and repatched by new clauses, amendments upon clauses, and amendments upon amendments, that it is now unintelligible, and, of course, unworkable; but, however this may be, Mr. Hunt has gallantly fought his bill, got it through—however wounded and mangled it may be—at a cost of labour and trouble which few would have undertaken and fewer have been able to endure, and therefore all honour to Mr. Hunt.

A CONSPIRACY.

When Mr. Clay last week moved for leave to bring in his bill to enact an educational franchise, there was a nice little conspiracy afoot which, had it but succeeded, might have caused a good deal of sharp fighting and no little fun. The conspirators were those two right hon. statesmen out of commission—Mr. Horsman and Mr. Lowe, and the conspiracy this: Mr. Horsman was to deliver one of his fiercest attacks upon Mr. Bright, Mr. Mill, and the member for Brighton—Mr. Fawcett; and it was confidently expected that, one after another, these gentlemen would jump up to reply; and, this object being attained, Mr. Lowe, who was already primed and loaded to the very muzzle, was to rush down upon the three unfortunate Radicals with a crusher. This, we are told, was the plot; and conformably, when Mr. Clay sat down, Horsman rose to perform his part in the conspiracy, and it is not too much to say, he performed it admirably. He put into requisition all his peculiar powers of eloquence, spiced by more than his usual bitterness and sarcasm. Thus far, then, the conspiracy had been a success. Mr. Horsman had succeeded in catching the Speaker's eye at the right juncture, and had been able to storm down upon his foes in a very trenchant style. But here the success ended. There must always be at least two to a fight; but Mr. Horsman could get no antagonist. Mr. Bright, whilst the storm of words rattled over him, sat close behind Mr. Horsman calm and self-possessed, leaning his head upon his hand and looking into space, as if he had no sort of concern in the speech; and when it was over, he still sat immovable and undisturbed. Mr. Mill, too, was equally reticent. He has written upon this subject of an educational franchise; surely he will rise. But, no! Unaccountably he, too, is silent. Neither did Mr. Fawcett stir. All three had been pointedly alluded to, but neither moved to reply. How was this? Well, the simple explanation is that the conspirators had not sufficiently kept their secret. The conspiracy had, somehow, leaked out; and straightway it was determined to meet conspiracy with conspiracy, artifice with artifice, mining with countermining; and so it happened that the Horsman and Lowe conspiracy failed—utterly failed. Mr. Horsman did his part; but, as the Radical men would not do theirs, Mr. Lowe could not perform his, but had to carry home his weapon, which he had so carefully loaded, undischarged—to his great disgust, and to the mortification also of Mrs. Lowe and friends who had been brought down and placed in the Ladies' Gallery to see the fun.

LORD MILTON.

Every night new members are cropping up out of the mass, and all who have spoken are worthy, more or less, of notice, if we had but the time and space to notice them. Some few nights ago, when we entered the House, there was behind the Ministry a tiny gentleman on his legs, whom we at once recognised as Lord Milton; but, as he was only proffering a few remarks upon some clause in the Cattle-Plague Bill, of his speaking we will say nothing here. A very small man is Lord Milton; but measure not a man, readers, by a material foot-rule. If you do, you will probably blunder. Whether Lord Milton will ever make a good speech we cannot divine; but we know that he has performed a grander exploit than that of speechmaking. If he cannot be eloquent in words, he has proved that he can do eloquent deeds; for this is the Lord Milton who, only a few years ago, in company with Dr. Cheadle and others, crossed the Rocky Mountains, and, by his pluck, untiring

energy, and fertility in expedients, was mainly instrumental in saving the party from destruction.

MR. OLIPHANT.

On Friday last week we saw Mr. Oliphant rise and heard him speak. And he, too, is a remarkable man. This gentleman has probably travelled over as wide a space on the earth's surface as any living man. Very early in life he was in India; he has travelled through the heart of Russia right away to the Crimea; he was with Lord Elgin when he was Governor of Canada; he accompanied Omar Pacha in his Caucasian campaign; he was again with Lord Elgin when that nobleman went to China and Japan; he has also wandered over the United States; and so late as 1861 he was in Japan, and nearly got murdered there. Truly a much-travelling man is Mr. Oliphant. Nor is he a mere blind traveller, as so many travellers are. He can observe and reflect, and, in good plain English, tell the world what he has seen, and heard, and thought. Mr. Oliphant looks what he is. In person he is of the middle height, spare of frame, and closely knit. His head is nearly bald; his intelligent face is darkened by exposure to wind and sun, and his dark beard, which he allows to grow as it will, is long and straight. Mr. Oliphant spoke of America and Fenianism, though the wisdom of his speech was not that sort of wisdom which the country gentlemen opposite could be expected to accept, for he advocated the closest alliance and friendship with the United States, and, to that end, the settlement of all outstanding claims and the removal of all other hindrances in the way. The Conservatives received this advice with mutterings and groans. Mr. Oliphant will probably never attempt to be an eloquent orator, but will be content to speak, as he obviously can, with gentlemanly ease and propriety; and, having travelled so wide and seen so much, he must, upon his own subjects, always be listened to with attention and respect—except, it may be, by a few (are we right in saying a few?) who never listen to learn, but only to be confirmed in what they know or think they know. By such a one as this, for example: "Who is this man Oliphant, that is talking such strange things in the House?" said a country squire of the true old type. "They say he has written something about sea-horses; he does not seem to have got much out of them." You see the critic had confounded Mr. Oliphant with Mr. Lamont, the member for Bute-shire, another adventurous traveller, but a very different man.

MR. DUNCAN M'LAREN.

On Monday night Mr. Duncan M'Laren, of Edinburgh—also a new member—was on his legs. He had spoken a few words before, on the Cattle Plague Bill; but on Monday he fairly made his debut as a speaker. Mr. M'Laren is brother-in-law of Mr. Bright, having married the sister of the member for Birmingham. Public speaking to Mr. M'Laren is nothing new, as you might perceive at once. He is an old man, somewhat over the half-way line between sixty and seventy, and he speaks with ease and propriety. No orator, though, is, nor will ever be, Mr. M'Laren. He is simply a clear-headed Scotsman, with a keen eye for a fallacy in argument and a keener for a falsification of facts. Like his predecessor, Mr. Black, his speech "bewrayeth" his country; though his accent is not anything like so broad as Mr. Black's, who was at times hardly intelligible to Southrons. It was Mr. Laing's singular defence of extravagance in expenditure that moved Mr. M'Laren to speak; and, by some well-pointed statistical facts and canny arguments, the member for Edinburgh succeeded in doing no small damage to Mr. Laing's position.

MR. THOMAS HUGHES.

Or "Tom Brown" Hughes, as members will call him, though he has more than once rushed to the front, has hardly yet had a chance of justifying the expectations of his enthusiastic admirers over the water. Clearly, though, he lacks not courage, for he has had a tilt at the great railway interest, and promises it many more impetuous assaults. Well, this is very courageous, no doubt; but consider, Mr. Hughes, whether there be honour or profit to be got out of these attacks. Of honour, but little, we should say; of success, none; for the name of this railway interest is Legion. It has, moreover, the wealth of the Indies at its command and the keenest of English intellect at its call, as Mr. Hughes will speedily, to his discomfiture, discover. Mr. Hughes might as well attempt to overthrow the great pyramid of Gizeh with his puny lance, as to move this compacted, formidable, we had almost said omnipotent, railway interest. Like the Leviathan of Job, "Darts it counteth as stubble. It laughs at the shaking of the spear." Generous, kindly, impulsive, sanguine, is Mr. Thomas Hughes; but let him not attempt the impossible. By doing this many a member of Parliament whom we have known has exhausted his energy and wasted his time. There are certain evils in this world which are so firmly entrenched that we can only hope to mitigate them, never to remove them. Besides, there are two sides to this question, as Mr. Hughes will learn, though in his present enthusiasm he can see but one. Nevertheless, one cannot but admire the single-eyed generosity, and chivalry, and courage of Mr. Hughes. These qualities are very refreshing in this too worldly House to be spoken of lightly.

SUPPLY.

The special business of the House on Monday night was "Supply," with Mr. White's preliminary motion upon national expenditure; but think not that it was Supply or Mr. White's motion that brought down such a crowd of members. Supply is never an attraction, but rather a deterrent. "Only Supply!" means, with the bulk of the members, "Oh, there is nothing worth going down for." To attract a crowd down to the House there must be something on the paper to excite expectation, or, as was once said, an element of cock-fighting. On Monday it was the element of cock-fighting. There was a question about Northumberland House to be disposed of, and A was expected to pitch into B, and B to pitch into A; and hence the crowd. National expenditure! none but old fogies care for that. Well, the cock-fighting came off, and at length Mr. White rose, and then, of course, all the lighter elements flew off, leaving only a residuum of really solid business men. Mr. White's speech was very able and interesting to all who care for the really great interest of the country. His special object was to test the sincerity of huggings pledges to support retrenchment, and, more especially, to bring the rhetorical flourishes of the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon the subject of economy face to face with the plain, prosaic facts of the Estimates; and, if Mr. White did no more, he successfully did this. He compelled the Chancellor to a defence which, to say the truth, when divested of all its ornamental rhetoric, was but a tame one, proving the truth of the sentence which Mr. White had passed upon him in one of the aptest quotations ever made in the House—

A very heathen in the carnal part,

But still a sad good Christian at the heart.

Yes, in his heart a good economist; but, as a mere official, his carnal part overrides all his good convictions.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER.—The annual account for the duchy of Lancaster has been laid before Parliament. The receipts in the year 1865, chiefly from rents and profits of courts, and rents and royalties of mines, amounted to £40,098. The ordinary expenditure, mainly for salaries and superannuations, was £13,674. There was also an outlay of £4453 for restoration of the Savoy Chapel, but this was almost entirely covered by the insurance. As in the preceding year, the sum of £26,000 was paid, as net income, to the Keeper of Her Majesty's Privy Purse, for her Majesty's use.

A NEW ISLAND.—On Jan. 31 a great commotion, accompanied by flame and smoke, arose in the Bay of Thera or Santorin (supposed to be the crater of a huge volcano), in Greece. The flames sometimes reached a height of 15 ft. On Feb. 4 the commotion increased, and dense volumes of smoke arose. The next morning the island was visible, and gradually rose to a height of 150 ft. Its area is small, and it appears to be composed of black lava. At present the centre of the volcanic force lies evidently far below the bottom of the sea, and only gases and smoke work their way through the incumbent earth to the water, and escape in noise, flames, and smoke to the surface. But, should a fissure at the bottom of the sea allow the water to penetrate to the fires that throw up the melted metal of the new island to the surface, an eruption may take place of a kind similar to that which destroyed Pompeii, but far more terrible.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Earl GRANVILLE, replying to an inquiry of the Earl of Derby, said that the Government declined to adopt or take charge of Mr. W. Hunt's Cattle Plague Bill as their own measure, and that, of course, it would be open to any noble Lord to move amendments to it.

The Earl of AIRLIE asked whether any experiments were being conducted by the Government to test Mr. Worms's remedy for the cattle plague.

Earl GRANVILLE said that the Government relied upon the Royal Commission for experiments testing any remedies for the cattle plague. The Commissioners had sent their inspectors to the herds where Mr. Worms's remedy had been tried, and experiments were now being made in the most scientific manner under their authority.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE DUTY ON COFFEE.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER observed, in answer to Mr. Marsh, that there was not, in the present state of circumstances, any ground for reducing the duty on coffee with reference to the duty on tea, to which, he thought, it bore a fair relative proportion.

THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGES, IRELAND.

Sir R. PEEL, who had a notice of motion on the paper for an address to the Queen praying her to withhold her consent from any change she might be advised to make in the charter and constitution of the Queen's University and Queen's Colleges in Ireland until the House had had an opportunity of expressing its opinion whether such change was desirable to be made, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, since the notice was placed on the paper, the Government had decided to yield to what appeared to have been the wish of the House on a former evening, and not to make any alterations in the charter of the Queen's University without first consulting the House as to the propriety and expediency of such change.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied that the Secretary of State was prepared to lay upon the table, at the earliest possible period, the correspondence, so far as it had gone, relating to the subject; and when it was concluded, and Government had made up their minds, and were ready to announce their conclusions—not before—they would put the House in possession of the fullest information respecting it. The granting of the charter would naturally follow the decision at which the Government arrived on the points which might be embraced in the charter; and it was their intention to place the matter distinctly before the view of Parliament by asking a vote from the House for certain scholarships in behalf of the University, which would be open to all persons qualified to compete for degrees in the Queen's Colleges or other educational institutions.

OUR NEUTRALITY LAWS.

Mr. LABOUCHERE called attention to the inadequacy of our neutrality laws to enable us to fulfil our international obligations, and urged the necessity of arming the Government with greater powers to prevent the subjects of this country from supplying belligerents with ships, arms, and ammunition, thus involving us in difficulties with foreign Governments, which led to a short discussion and a statement of the views of the Government by the Attorney-General.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAYS.

Lord STANLEY, having stated that the Commission on railways had finished their labours and made their report, called attention to the enormous number of railway schemes before Parliament connected with the metropolis, and recommended a Select Committee to report upon them.

Mr. GIBSON dissented from the plan of the noble Lord, and gave his opinion of the manner in which the bills should be dealt with.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CATTLE-PLAGUE BILL.

Earl GRANVILLE announced that Government declined to take charge of Mr. Hunt's cattle-plague bill; and said that, if it were taken up by an independent peer, he should have a string of amendments to propose to it. The bill was brought in and read a first time.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

Viscount LIFFORD, in a lengthened speech, desired to be informed whether the Government intended to endow the Roman Catholic clergy in Ireland. He was understood to advocate the application of some of the funds of the Established Church to the education of the people.

Earl RUSSELL, in reply, reviewed the legislation with respect to Ireland for the last thirty years, and most distinctly said Government would not propose to endow the Roman clergy. Indeed, that clergy were strongly opposed to any such thing. It was certain, said his Lordship, that the Church of Ireland was not the Church of the people, and the Government would be glad if the revenues of that Church could be applied as had been suggested; but any proposition to that effect would create heartburnings.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. WHITE moved the resolutions following:—"That the expenditure of the Government has of late years been excessive; that it was, and is now, taken in great measure out of the earnings of the people, and forms in no small degree a deduction from a scanty store, which is necessary to secure to them a sufficiency, not of the comforts of life, but even of the prime necessities of food, of clothing, of shelter, and of fuel." "That this House, whilst mindful of its obligations to maintain the security of the country at home and the protection of its interests abroad, is deeply impressed with the urgent necessity of economy in every department of the State, and is of opinion that no Administration is deserving of the confidence of this House and the country which shall not relieve the present burden of taxation on the unrepresented and other classes by making an early and large reduction of the Government expenditure."

After some observations by Mr. Baxter, Mr. Marsh, Sir S. Northcote, and Mr. Laing.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER defended himself against some of Mr. White's imputations, accepting fully the responsibility of all proposals for expenditure made by the Government, but asserting that many motions were made by individual members which led to increased expenditure, and which, by reflex action, rendered economy more difficult. He entered into the various reasons which led to this year's Estimates presenting so little appearance of reduction, and demurred to Mr. White's opinion that the battle of reduction could not be fought in Committee of Supply, instancing Mr. Hume, on whose patience, acuteness, and persevering labour he passed a high eulogium.

Mr. WHITE withdrew his resolution.

METROPOLITAN MANAGEMENT.

Lord R. MONTAGU called attention to the inconveniences created by the conflicting jurisdictions in the metropolis, particularly in the matters of paving, lighting, and cleansing the streets, contrasting London in this respect most unfavourably, not only with Paris, but even with the smallest corporate towns in the kingdom. As illustrations, he narrated the history of the demolition of the new street in Southwark, and gave an amusing account of the miseries of London streets after the last heavy snowstorm; and he mentioned also the numerous deaths by accident and the stimulus given to fever by the overcrowding produced by the system. He ridiculed the absurd veneration for the principle of local self-government which led to this anarchy, and recommended that a general superintendence over the metropolis should be committed to the Metropolitan Board of Works, the minor boards being retained to perform local duties, and the principal officers to be named by the Government.

Sir G. GREY agreed that it would be desirable, though, perhaps, not very easy, to reduce the conflicting jurisdictions of the metropolis under one uniform system, and intimated that an opportunity for inquiring into the subject would be afforded by the Committee which Mr. Ayrton would move for to-night.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

The House having gone into Committee of Supply, Lord C. PAGET moved the Navy Estimates for the year 1866-7, amounting to £10,388,153. The vote for new works was, he said, £800,000; but he explained that, in order to carry out the recommendations of the Select Committee of last year, the expenditure on this account for the next three years would not be less than £1,000,000 per annum. There was not, he feared, any prospect of diminishing our maritime force, as the Admiralty was pressed to send ships to all parts of the world to defend our commerce, especially in China and Japan. The total number of armoured ships which would be afloat on the 1st of April next was thirty, and another would be ready in a few weeks afterwards. A seagoing cruising turret-ship, of 5000 tons, was about to be built, to be called the Monarch, and in the course of the year nearly 16,000 tons of shipping would be constructed. The noble and gallant Lord having explained in detail the more prominent items of expenditure in the dockyards, naively remarked that he regretted not to observe on the present occasion the familiar faces of Mr. Lindsay, Sir Frederick Smith, Sir J. B. B. Smith, Sir John Hay, and others who used in former Sessions to criticise the administration of the Navy.

Sir J. PAKINGTON, after some general remarks, pressed for a fuller and more explicit declaration of the intentions of the Admiralty with regard to building turret-ships.

Mr. SAMUDA analysed the constitution of our iron fleet, contending that we had only ten ships which we could place in the front line of battle, and censured the vacillation of the Admiralty in their alternate preference for fully-armed and partially-armed vessels. He recommended the addition of six turret-ships to our Navy of about 3000 tons each.

After some further discussion, the debate was adjourned until Thursday.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Earl GRANVILLE moved the second reading of the Cattle-Plague Bill, which had passed the Commons, and the chief provisions of which he briefly explained. There were some of the clauses, he remarked, that were likely to introduce confusion, and on that ground were objectionable, but they could be easily amended in Committee; and as the details of the measure involved many intricate points, he should propose that it be referred to a Select Committee, he undertaking to have the amendments ready by Thursday. A short discussion ensued, which terminated in the bill being read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Select Committee accordingly.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW BILLS.

Mr. H. Sheridan obtained leave, with the assent of the President of the Board of Trade, to bring in a bill to compel the directors of railway companies to provide efficient means of communication between the travellers by, and the guards in charge of, railway trains.

Mr. B. Cochrane also obtained leave to introduce a bill to amend the Colonial Governors (Retiring Pension) Act of last Session.

A motion by Mr. Ayrton for a Select Committee to inquire into the local government of the metropolis led to rather a smart passage of words between that hon. gentleman and Lord Robert Montagu. Both, however, seemed to agree that there was room for improvement in the management of London.—Sir G. Grey acceded to the motion for a Committee, and it was agreed to.

Leave was given to Mr. Ewart to bring in a bill to amend the Free Public Libraries Act.

The National Debt Reduction Bill and the Savings-Banks and Post-Office Savings-Bank Bill were read a third time and passed.

The Cattle Diseases (Ireland) Bill was passed through Committee.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICES.

Mr. HADFIELD moved the second reading of the Qualification for Offices Abolition Bill; to which Mr. NEWDEGATE proposed as an amendment that the bill be read a second time on that day six months. His ground for opposing the bill was that if it became law it would cause such dissensions in corporations as must greatly impair their usefulness, and perhaps ultimately prove fatal to their very existence. After a short discussion, the House divided, and the amendment was negatived by 176 to 55; and the second reading was therefore agreed to.

Mr. BOUYERIE then moved the second reading of the Fellows of Colleges Declaration Bill, the object of which is to repeal that portion of the Act of Uniformity which requires a candidate for a fellowship to subscribe to the Thirty-nine Articles.

Mr. SELWYN stated, on the part of Mr. Walpole, that his right hon. friend would oppose the measure at a future stage, as his objections to it remained unchanged.

The bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on the 18th of April.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Jamaica Government Bill was read a third time and passed. The Cattle Diseases (Ireland) Bill, as amended, was considered. The bills granting annuities to Princess Helena and Prince Alfred were read a second time.

On the motion of Mr. T. G. Baring, it was agreed that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the working of the acts for licensing and regulating theatres and places of public entertainment in Great Britain, and to report any alterations which may appear to be necessary therein.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

After some conversation in reference to the cattle plague and the cattle bills, The Earl of CARNARVON called attention to the railway lines proposed in the metropolis, and inquired what steps the Government proposed to take in connection with the subject.

Earl RUSSELL said the Government and the Board of Trade had great difficulty in dealing with the matter. It was, doubtless, their duty to do something in the matter, and measures would be brought before Parliament with regard to railway powers. There were only, however, two or three bills now before their Lordships, so that he thought the usual course of procedure need not be departed from, and the noble Earl was understood to object to the proposal of a joint Committee on the subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM BILL.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he would call the attention of the House, on March 12, to that portion of the Queen's Speech relating to the constituencies in counties and boroughs. He might also state that the returns which were in preparation for the information of the House—which would amount to a volume of several hundred pages—were undergoing revision, but he could not promise that they would be in the hands of members before the end of next week, or even after he made his statement.

THE DEVONPORT ELECTION.

Sir J. PAKINGTON complained of the conduct of the Admiralty authorities at Devonport Dockyard in examining the workmen there under the Speaker's warrants, instead of their being served at the men's residences.

After considerable discussion, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the Government were not in possession of the facts of the case, but the matter should be inquired into.

Mr. DISRAELI could not help thinking that the Speaker's warrant had been used improperly, and he trusted that the Government would tell the parties in error that they had acted indiscreetly.

After a few words from the Attorney-General and Lord J. Manners, the subject dropped.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee on the Navy Estimates, the consideration of which occupied the remainder of the sitting.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1866.

THE PERILS OF THE MINE.

MINING is one of the most important operations carried on in Great Britain. Upon the success of the class who burrow in the bowels of the earth, and "get" the riches buried there, depends the prosperity of several of the other great industries of the country, as well as the comfort of every individual among us. Did not the miner supply coals and metals, the occupation would be gone of our cotton-spinners and "cunning workers in iron and brass." Our shipping and shipowners would be idle, every industry carried on among us would be at a standstill, and the decline and fall of our national greatness would be at hand. We do not indulge these reflections with the purpose of founding upon them a jeremiad on the prospects of Great Britain. We have no doubt the mineral wealth of the country will still be got as long as there are minerals for the getting. What we want to direct attention to is the condition of those engaged in mining operations.

Improvements have been made of late years in the condition of labourers in all other branches of industry, as well as in the circumstances under which the various classes of hand-workers pursue their labours. Even the peasant has risen in

the social scale, much as he requires still to rise before he can be said to enjoy a reasonable measure of comfort. But for the miner, whose occupation is at once one of the most dangerous and the most unhealthy, comparatively little has been done. The public is still startled ever and anon by appalling colliery accidents. The miner is still left in ignorance and in peril. He has still to fight, almost unaided, with his two terrible adversaries—firedamp and chokedamp. He is still liable at any moment to be burnt to a cinder, or buried beneath the debris caused by explosions of the one; he has little or no protection from being choked in his darksome lair by the other. Irruptions of water continually threaten—not always innocuously—to drown him like a rat in his hole; and peril in various other forms is ever impending over him. Not that means do not exist of mitigating at least, if not of altogether averting, the dangers incident to the miner's calling; but they are not employed, or only in a meagre degree. He himself is ignorant, and superstitious and reckless because ignorant. The wealth he produces is reckoned by millions a year; the comforts and conveniences flowing from his toil cannot be catalogued; and yet but little of that wealth is devoted to ameliorating his condition—few of those comforts and conveniences fall to his share.

This is not well. Such a state of things calls for a remedy; and therefore we hail with much satisfaction a clever pamphlet, just published by Mr. Jabez Hogg, F.L.S., entitled "Life and Death in Our Mines," which deals in a reasonable and scientific manner with the evils to which the miner is liable, and their possible cure. Mr. Hogg indulges in no vain declamations or fierce denunciations. He states facts, he points out the sources of mischief, and he indicates means of mitigation. From his pages we learn that the lives of 1644 human beings are annually sacrificed in our mines by accidents, most of which spring from preventable causes. Firedamp alone claims a daily victim, or 365 in the year. Accidents in the shaft—arising from defective working or faulty construction—destroy 158 persons annually. Falling-in of roofs, falls of coal, explosions of gunpowder used in blasting, suffocation, &c., absorb 497 lives a year; accidents by machinery, bursting of boilers, and so forth, immolate 63. We have thus a total of 1083 persons killed by mining accidents on the spot, while 561 others died in consequence of injuries sustained in such catastrophes. This was the return made in 1864, and there is no reason to suppose that matters have improved since then.

But accidents are not the only evils with which the miner has to contend. His occupation is itself unhealthy, and, as at present conducted, involves a serious curtailment of his natural period of existence. The atmosphere he breathes is impure; the positions in which he labours are irksome and injurious; and the incrustation of his skin with dirt is deleterious. The result is, that in Cornwall, between the ages of thirty-five and forty-five, fourteen miners die for every ten workers above ground; between forty-five and fifty-five, thirty-four miners perish for every fifteen toilers above-ground; and between fifty-five and sixty-five, no less than sixty-three miners succumb for every twenty-four workers on the earth's surface. All these calculations deal with males only; but, as it seems females are also employed in considerable numbers underground, the mortality must be still greater in proportion among them. Indeed, as we have already said in these columns, it is positively barbarous that females should be employed in mining operations at all; and a law totally prohibiting such practices would not be overstepping the proper functions of the Legislature, or an unreasonable interference with individual liberty.

As regards remedial measures, it seems clear that all accidents arising from breakages of machinery, faulty construction of shafts and workings, carelessness of management, and recklessness of the miners, are easily preventable, and therefore ought to be prevented. Making proprietors and managers of mines personally responsible for the consequences of their parsimony or want of due diligence, would go far to check that description of accident; and this should certainly be done. No man has a right to jeopardise the lives of others in order to save trouble or expense to himself. Means should be taken to instruct the miners as to the true sources of the dangers to which they are liable, and to induce them to use all possible precautions. There is prevalent among them a sort of fatalist belief that if they are to die by accident, they cannot escape their destiny, and that they will not be cut off till their allotted hour has come. This superstition, while it makes them courageous in facing peril, renders them also reckless in provoking it, and should be eradicated by every possible means. Weapons with which to combat the two most potent demons of the mine—firedamp and chokedamp—are not wanting. First, there is the Davy lamp, which, if properly constructed and carefully tended, not only indicates danger, but averts its consequences. But these lamps, however valuable, are yet imperfect protectors; and they are, moreover, often ill-constructed and more frequently carelessly handled. The warnings they give are neglected; the light they afford is feeble; the miners are tempted to remove the wire-gauze covering which constitutes their safety; and explosion and death are the results. A more rigid enforcement of the use of these lamps, and of fuller attention to them and their warnings, would save many valuable lives. Why should not this be seen to? Then there is the simple and beautiful firedamp indicator, invented by Mr. Ansell, of the Royal Mint, and fully described and figured in Mr. Hogg's pamphlet. By this instrument the smallest percentage of foul air mixed with the atmosphere is immediately indicated; and not only so, but can be signalled by electric currents to any part of

the mine, or to the manager's office above ground. Were all the workings in our coal and metal mines furnished with these valuable instruments, the presence of danger from this source might at once be detected, and fatal consequences averted. We know not what may be the cost of Mr. Ansell's instruments; but surely, whatever it is, the lives of the mining population are worth preserving at any price; and the wealth enjoyed by mine-owners may well afford the necessary outlay. The miner's occupation will probably, under any circumstances, be always dangerous and irksome; but neglect of any precaution which will tend to render it less so, is absolutely criminal.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has appointed Lord Kinnaid Lord Lieutenant of Perthshire, vice Lord Kinnoull, deceased.

THE DUCHESS OF MONTPENSIER has been safely delivered of a son.

PRINCE ALFRED has been promoted to the rank of Captain in the Fleet.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH has conferred, through his Ambassador at Copenhagen, the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour upon the Crown Prince of Denmark.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL has been named honorary president of the Committee of the International Exhibition to be held in Paris in 1867.

MR. GRANT, President of the Royal Academy, and Dr. Stanley, Dean of Westminster, have been appointed trustees of the National Portrait Gallery.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES intends laying out about £6000 in the improvement of the Royal Lodge, Windsor Great Park, in order to adapt that residence to the requirements of his establishment.

THE marriage of the Marquis of Queensberry and Miss Sybil Montgomery, second daughter of Mr. Alfred Montgomery, and granddaughter of Lord Leonfield, was solemnized, on Tuesday morning, at St. George's Church, Hanover-square, in the presence of a very numerous company.

A TRANSLATION OF "HOMER," by Mr. Gladstone, is said to be in preparation for publication.

MME. LIND-GOLDSCHMIDT will shortly undertake a concert-giving tour through Germany.

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE, accompanied by Dr. Hodgkin, has started for Palestine on another mission of philanthropy to his brethren in the East.

THE AUSTRO-SARDINIAN TREATY OF 1851 has been extended to the whole of Italy.

AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION is to be held in Vienna in 1870.

THE PROFESSORSHIP OF GREEK AND LATIN in the Baker University, Kansas, is said to be efficiently filled by Miss Martha Baldwin, a graduate of the Berea (Ohio) University. She has occupied the chair for a year, and at the last commencement was selected by the Faculty to deliver the annual address, which duty she performed very satisfactorily. She is but twenty-one years of age.

THE EARL OF DERBY has presented £20 to the Printers' Pension Fund, in connection with the Printers' Pension Corporation.

THE PROPOSAL OF MR. YATES THOMPSON to found an American lectureship at Cambridge has been rejected by a majority of thirty, the placets being seventy-five, and the non-placets 105.

MALES IN THIS COUNTRY are cut off by death in a higher proportion than females, and the ratio of that higher death-rate in the males is nearly constant from year to year.

THE REV. DR. WHEWELL, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, was thrown from his horse a few days ago, and sustained such serious injuries as caused him to remain insensible for a considerable time. He is now slowly recovering.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES for 1866-7 show a net decrease as compared with the votes of last year of £253,447.

THE PROGRESSISTA PARTY in Spain have renounced the policy of abstention which they so recently proclaimed. The serious aspect of affairs between Spain and the South American Republics is the alleged reason for this.

A FARMER rejoicing in the euphonious name of "Acts Apostles Pegden," recently died at Boughton-under-the-Blean, Kent, as we learn from an advertisement signed by the solicitors to the administrator of the said Acts Apostles Pegden.

A BILL IS PASSING THROUGH THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS authorizing the President to appoint three commissioners, at a salary of 5000 dollars each per annum for three years, to arrange, consolidate, revise, and simplify all the statutes of the United States.

THE PRICE OF REAL ESTATE in New York city in 1866 is double what it was in 1863, and rents are advancing at a fabulous rate. Instances are given of rents that were at the rate of 15,000 dols. per annum being raised to 50,000 dols. and 60,000 dols.

THE EXECUTIVE OF THE DRAMATIC COLLEGE have awarded to Mr. A. R. Selous, a member of the Stock Exchange, the late Mr. T. P. Cooke's prize of £100 for the best nautical drama. The title of Mr. Selous's drama is "True to the Core," and it is understood that it will soon be produced at one of the West-End theatres.

THE TUSK or horn of a mammoth, measuring 10 ft. 2 in. in length and 22 ft. in circumference, has been found 10 ft. below the surface in excavating for gravel for the Spalding and March Railway at the pits of Deeping St. James. It is in a good state of preservation.

AN INDIAN BEAR belonging to the 17th Lancers, stationed at Colchester escaped and wandered about the other night. Several soldiers were dispatched to capture it, and succeeded in doing so, but not until two of them had been bitten.

A BRIDGE is about to be suspended over the Ohio River at Cincinnati, which will be the longest in the world—1057 yards. This is 2000 ft. longer than the suspension bridge at Niagara, and 540 ft. longer than that of Menai. The massive stone piers rise 110 ft. above the floor of the bridge, which is 90 ft. above the bed of the river.

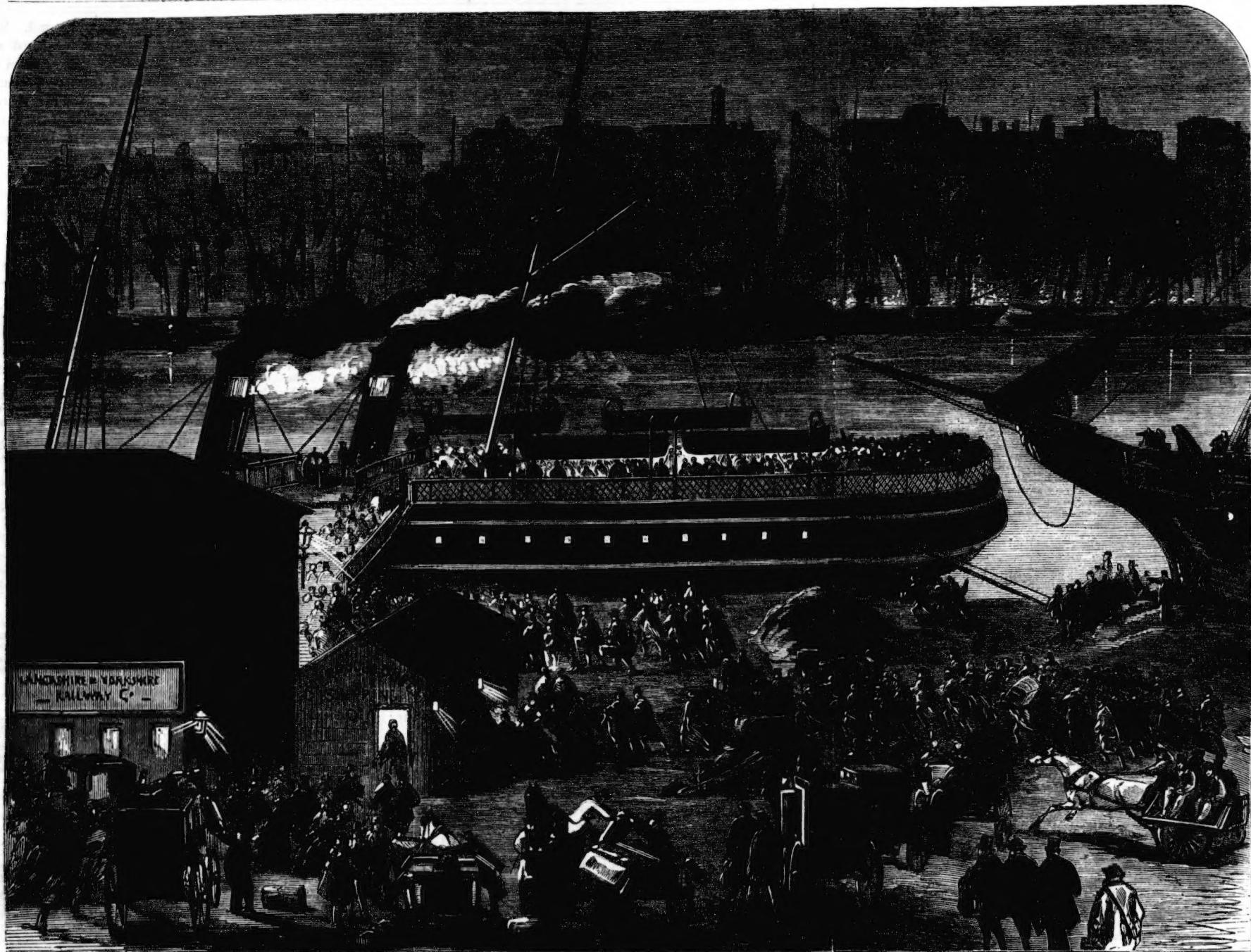
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has presented to the British Museum one of two Roman tombs recently discovered upon the Crown property at Old Windsor. The other tomb her Majesty has presented to the town of Windsor, and it is to be deposited in the contemplated local museum in connection with the Literary and Scientific Institution of the borough.

A GIGANTIC AQUARIUM, it is said, is to be among the wonders of the Paris Universal Exhibition. The front alone is to measure 100 ft.; every sort of fish is to be collected therein for the amusement of the public; and even sharks, cod, and porpoises are to exhibit their peculiar habits and customs in grottoes and caves, which are to be excavated in the floor of the building and filled with sea-water.

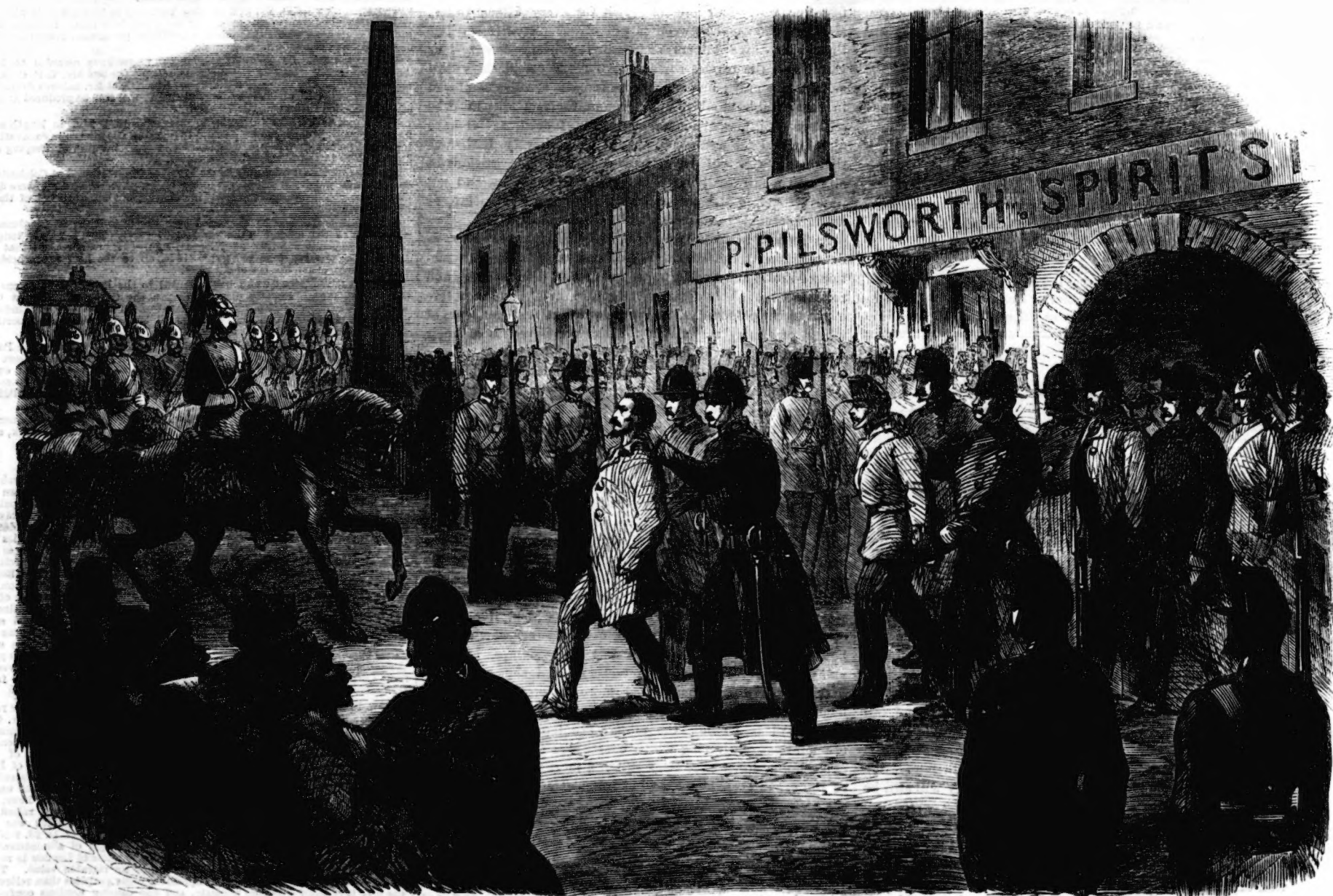
MR. FREDERIC STRANGE, of the Alhambra, was entertained at dinner at St. James's Hall, by a numerous party of friends, on Friday night week, and presented with a handsome piece of plate, value 300 guineas.

THE RETORT COURTEOUS.—The cupola of the Townhall of Wareham requires an outlay of £7 or £8 to repair it, and recently the Corporation of that town conceived the idea that the easiest way of raising the paltry amount would be by a begging letter to the Prince of Wales. They received, through the Mayor, the following reply from General Knollys, dated, "Marlborough House, Feb. 20. I am desired by the Prince of Wales to acknowledge the receipt of your letter representing to his Royal Highness the dangerous condition of the cupola on the Townhall of Wareham, and soliciting that he would be pleased to order a donation towards its repair. His Royal Highness is very sensible of the loyal feelings which have prompted you, as Mayor of Wareham, to make this appeal on behalf of the Corporation of so ancient and loyal a borough, and it would have afforded him sincere gratification to have answered it favourably, had he not feared such a precedent might be productive of similar appeals without the same merits or the same excuse. His Royal Highness trusts, however, that, the estimated expense of repairs being only between £7 and £8, the good feelings of the inhabitants of Wareham will, on such an occasion, where the lives of their Corporation are in question, supply the want of any corporate fund applicable for the required purpose."

HOW POOR RATES ARE SPENT.—What are at present called poor rates include expenditure of a very heterogeneous and miscellaneous character. The cost of parochial proceedings at law or in equity, payments for or towards the county, hundred, or borough rates; a police rate, constables' expenses, and cost of proceedings before justices, payments on account of the Registration Act, vaccination fees, expenses allowed in respect of Parliamentary or municipal registrations, payments under the Parochial Assessment Act (for surveys and valuations), and loans repaid under the same, all come out of the sum collected as poor rates. Thus, although in the year ended Lady Day, 1864, the total amount raised in the metropolis under this head was £1,489,732; only £876,292 was expended on relieving the poor; and while a uniform rate of 1s. 3d. 9-10ths in the pound for the year would provide for all charges of administration and relief, the present average poor rate upon the whole of London is much higher, being 2s. 1d. 3-10ths in the pound on its rateable value. That nearly half our poor rates should be applied to other purposes than relieving the poor is in itself a glaring anomaly, and one causing needless confusion and irritability in the minds of the people taxed.—J. C. Parkinson, in the "Fortnightly Review."



SUSPECTED FENIANS "MAKING A RUN FOR IT" TO THE LIVERPOOL AND HOLYHEAD PACKETS, DUBLIN.



THE POLICE ARRESTING THE FENIAN COUNCIL IN PILSWORTH'S TAVERN, JAMES-STREET, DUBLIN.

GUSTAVE DORÉ.

PAUL GUSTAVE DORÉ, the famous French artist, was born at Strasburg, in January, 1833. Whilst yet quite young he accompanied his father to Paris, where he completed his education. At an early age he contributed comic sketches to the *Journal pour Rire*. The same year appeared his contributions to albums, "*Les Pins Sauvages*," "*Le Lendemain de l'Orage*," "*Les Deux Mères*," "*La Bataille d'Alma*" (exhibited in 1855), "*La Bataille d'Inkerman*" (1857). He is the most German in style of French artists. He is well known as the illustrator of the exquisite pantomime of Rabelais, and for his still more delightful pictorial commentaries upon Balzac's wild "*Contes Didactiques*." He also illustrated the legend of "*The Wandering Jew*," in a series of grotesque, yet epical pictures, which bear much of the stamp of Holbein and A. Durer, combined with the racy humour of Hogarth. This book appeared in an English translation by Mr. Walter Thornbury, in 1857. He has also illustrated a book of travels in every part of the world. In 1861 he gave to the world seventy-six large drawings illustrative of the "*Divina Commedia*" of Dante, accompanied by a blank-verse translation of the text by Mr. W. M. Rossetti. M. Doré has just produced a series of wonderful folio illustrations to "*Don Quixote*," which are all careful studies from Spanish life; and is now engaged in illustrating the Bible, and has declared his intention of afterwards devoting himself to the illustration of Homer and of some of the works of Mr. Tennyson.

DEPUTATION OF NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS TO WASHINGTON.

EXCEPT in renewing our acquaintance with the thrilling stories of the great American novelist, we are accustomed to regard the North American Indians as an almost extinct race, who if they are not altogether "improved off the face of the earth," are yet only represented by a few individuals neither numerous nor powerful enough to constitute regular tribes, and living in a precarious half-savage, half-civilised state on the territorial leavings of the white man.

This view is not altogether correct, however, for there are still tribes, more numerous perhaps of the great nation which once

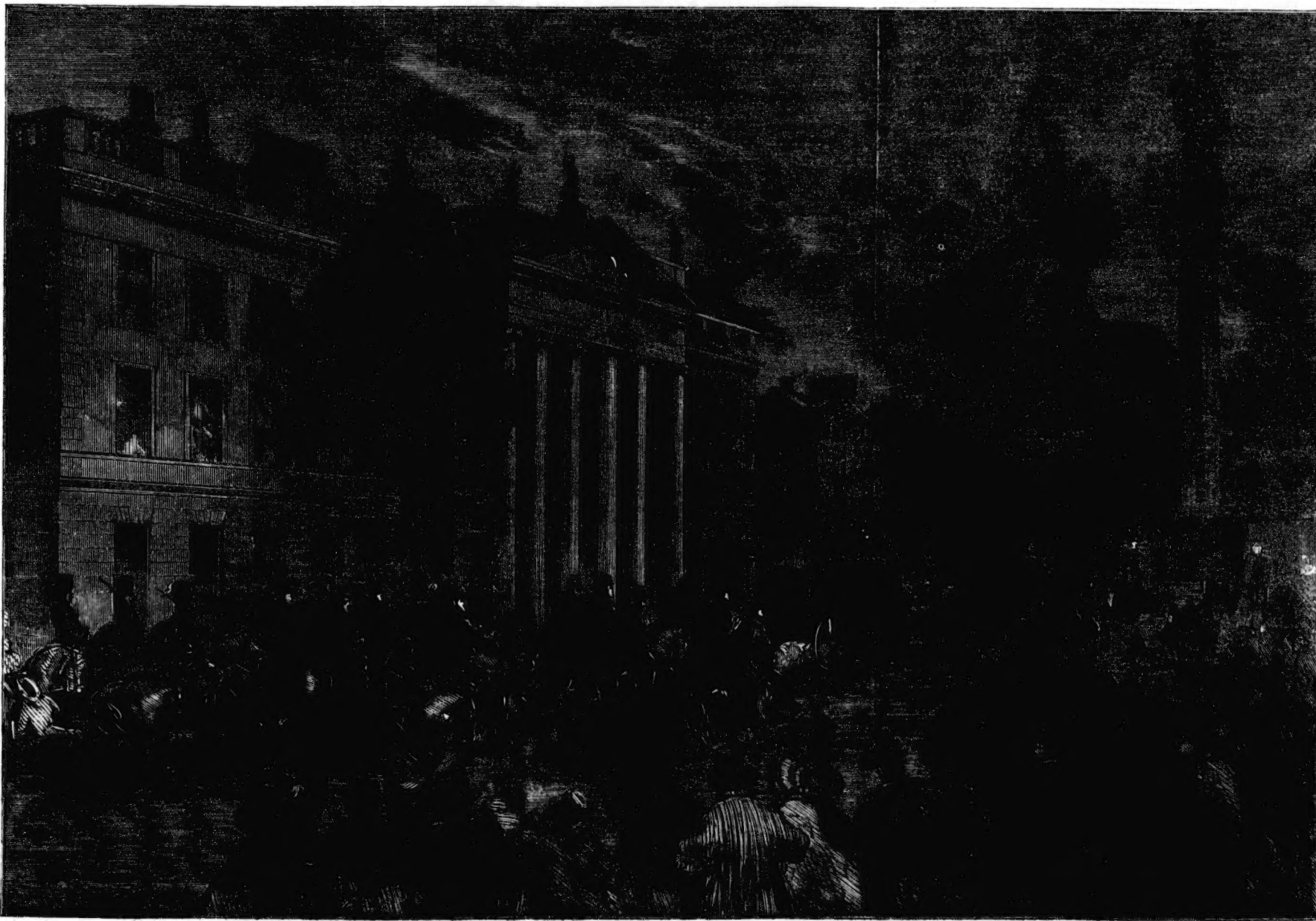


GUSTAVE DORÉ.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY CARL V.)

divided a large part of the American continent, and united in swearing vengeance against the colonists even while they made war upon each other. Indian villages are now in existence, the inhabitants of which have in some sort settled down to peaceful pursuits, and adopted not only the habits and costume of the "pale faces," but possess more than one church and school-house, and even the luxury of a local newspaper.

But there are others who retain many of their primitive habits occupying a sort of neutral position on the border lands of distant States, and who are still dangerous to travellers not properly accredited, especially in a period like that through which America has just passed, when it may be supposed that fresh opportunities have revived their old desires for warfare and pillage. The Indian is no longer the untamable savage, however. He has an industry of his own by which he supplies some of the needs of his former enemies, and he may still rove over the great hunting-grounds or fish in the mighty lakes of that vast continent with tolerable certainty of a market for the produce of his skill in wood or water craft. Above all, he has found it necessary to secure the means of exchanging his commodities for other necessities which the white man has brought him; and, even though he may still lead a nomadic life, and dream of the days which are preserved in the legends of old chiefs, he seldom now adorns his wigwam with golden-locked scalps, or swoops down with his tribe upon white settlements, to burn the rude homesteads and murder the women and children.

Whether it be attributable to the influence of Cooper's novels or not, we are all of us prone to credit the genuine redskin with a touch of the heroic; and, with the exception of some of the tribes who were looked upon with contempt by the aristocratic Hurons or Delawares, to regard them, on the whole, as noble savages capable of that kind of reclamation which would make all end happily at the end of a third volume. Unfortunately, the only road to real reclamation lying through personal usefulness—and the only real utility of the savage being his adaptability to labour—a vast number of the fierce, proud "children of the prairie" who thought that work was only the business of women,



ESCORTING FENIAN PRISONERS TO MOUNTJOY GAOL, DUBLIN.

and that men were intended for fighting and hunting, have been thrust out of a life in which they could bear no part, or have almost as rapidly died from the want of their usual stimulus, and the substitution of the fire-water of the colonists. The noble savage in that sense is "played out," and those of the Redskins who remain have either turned to hunting and fishing as a business, while their women work at such Indian manufactures as mats, moccasins, ornamental blankets, or beaded robes, or have settled down into poor but moderately-industrious agriculturists within the clearings which have grown into villages and small townships.

Our readers will remember, however, that some of the tribes still possessing a kind of organisation took part in the civil war, in which, however, they formed only an insignificant contingent. Now that the hatchet is buried, however, and the calumet of peace smoked, the representatives of these tribes have sent a deputation to Washington, to offer their proportion to the grand palaver, and Major Burbank has accompanied them from Nebraska (where he is the United States agent) as their interpreter. Eight of these Indian delegates have been chosen—five of them representing the Iowas and three the Saxes and Foxes. Our Engraving represents the most important chiefs of the party—that is to say, Sag-er-lash, surnamed the Englishman; Too-hi, or the White Thorn; and Toi-a-kee, or Stag Shoulder, of the Iowas; and Pe-te-o-Kima, or Great Fish, of the Foxes. Of these Too-hi comes nearest in appearance to our received notions of the astute, aristocratic chief, and he preserves more of the warlike appearance of the Indian than the rest; while the muscular frame and heavy features of the Big Fish denote that he belongs to a separate community, and that he has lost some of the usual characteristics of the agile Indian, though his powerful limbs would make him an ugly customer in a hand-to-hand encounter. The costume of these delegates, a singular combination of European dress and savage ornaments, is in itself significant.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

ON Wednesday morning the *Times* fairly startled the town by announcing that the Russell Ministry was wrecked and that the Duke of Somerset had been, or was to be, sent for. The House met as usual on that day, at twelve o'clock; and very early the members flocked down, not so much to attend to the business on the paper as to learn whether the announcement in the *Times* was true. "Is it true?" said everybody to everybody—nobody knowing anything about the matter, except what the *Times* had announced; and as the Government subalterns came down they were eagerly questioned. They, however, knew, or professed to know, nothing. But then, you know, Government subs. are not always in the confidence of the gods; and when they are, they will not reveal what they know. And so, for a time, all was mystery and doubt. "If true, what has happened? Is it the Reform Bill that has split the Government, or the Jamaica question, or what is it?" Some said that the Ministry was to be more Radical; others, that it was to be more Conservative; that we were, in short, to have a Coalition Ministry, including Lord Stanley, Earl Grey, Robert Lowe, Mr. Horsman, &c.; and that Reform was to be thrown overboard. Soon, however, the perplexity began to subside; and, in some mysterious way—no one knows how—it came to be believed that the announcement in the *Times* was simply a canard. I do not certainly know, but I rather think, that a question was put directly to a Cabinet Minister, and that he flatly and positively denied that Earl Russell had resigned or intended to resign. However this may be, it came to be generally understood before the House rose that there was no truth whatever in the announcement in the *Times*.

How, then, came the *Times* to make this announcement? Well, I suppose "the wish was father to the thought;" for, understand, there is "a third party" in the House, comprising Mr. Lowe, Mr. Horsman, and, strange to say, Mr. Edward Bouverie; perhaps there may be others of less repute, but these three are certainly banded together to upset, if possible, the Russell Government; moved, perhaps, by different motives, but certainly banded together for one object; and the zealous organ of this party is the *Times*. The *Times* never liked Earl Russell. When it was known that he was to form the Government, it opened upon him its fiercest fires; and it has never concealed its dislike to the noble Earl. It was lately asked of one nearly connected with Earl Russell how this came to be. His answer was, "Well, you see, Lord Palmerston courted the *Times*, invited its editor to his house, and in other ways flattered, and petted, and patted it on the back, and secured its support. This Earl Russell never would do. Through the whole of his career he has always refused to ask the support or deprecate the opposition of the public press, and hence this pertinacious opposition of the *Times* to Earl Russell." This was the reply of this gentleman, who certainly ought to know, and I believe—and so would you, if I could but mention his name—does know; and here is evidence to prove that this is really the rule by which Earl Russell guides his conduct to the public press. When the noble Lord was under a cloud, after he returned from his diplomatic mission to Austria, a proprietor of a newspaper called upon his Lordship to offer the support of his paper. He was shown into a room; Earl Russell presently entered, and, having heard the newspaper proprietor at some length, thus, somewhat proudly but courteously, replied:—"I am not insensible to the kindness of your offer; but I have made it a rule of my political life never to deprecate the criticism of the press nor to court its support. I wish you good-morning." You may rely upon this as true; for the said proprietor used to make no secret of the result of his interview; on the contrary, he talked of it openly, and with an expression of admiration of the noble Earl.

But, you will say—as many have said—surely the *Times* must have had some grounds for its assertion? Well, one would think so. But, if you have studied the *Times* lately, you will have seen that it has in many instances been so utterly wrong in its political vaticinations as to lead you to the conclusion that it must have been of late smitten with blindness. Indeed, rumour says that its proprietors have been quite alarmed by its vacillating conduct, the want of foresight in its conductors, its egregious mistakes, and its consequent loss of influence. The profits of the paper are as large as ever—perhaps larger—but the proprietors see, and regret, that its influence is decreasing every day; and it is confidently asserted that the chief proprietor, whom I need not name, has decided, and made known his decision, that, unless more caution be observed, some change in the staff must be made. Of course, I cannot vouch for the truth of this rumour. The secrets of Printing House-square and of Downing-street one knows seldom ooze out; but they will sometimes escape, as we know. All I can say is, that the rumour is current at the clubs and in the House, and is generally believed. Some, indeed, say that a political censor either is or is to be appointed to overlook all articles before they are printed.

I have had a specimen number of Doré's Bible sent me. It contains that marvellous picture, "The Return of the Ark to Beth-Shemesh"—which is simply one of the most remarkable bits of engraving on wood that I ever saw. It is, with the exception of a few bits in the foreground, cut in pure tint; and the soft, misty mellowness of the middle distance is really wonderful. I can't make out the engraver's name, for his modesty has rendered it illegible; but it is neither Pisan nor Pannemaker. I fell in with a copy of Doré's "Croque-Mitaine" the other day, for the first time, and am almost tempted to prefer it, for the weird and terrible, to anything of his I have seen. I learn, from a friend who is acquainted with M. Doré's method of working, that he is an engraver as well as a draughtsman; and that, when the cutter cannot see how to translate his effect, Doré himself assumes the graver and points out the way. This knowledge of the art, I do not doubt, has much to do with his peculiar happiness on the word.

The second conversation of the Langham takes place this evening, when the pictures painted by members of the club for the Suffolk-street exhibition will be placed on the easels. I hear that the Suffolk-street society is likely to have some fine works this year; the new members elected last season having gone to work with a will. When I remind my readers that Edwin Hayes and E. C. Barnes are two of the recently elected they will be prepared for some worthy

work. I hear great things of Barnes's subject. Mr. Lamont, whose picture at the Dudley has been much admired, is one of the last-elected members of the Old Water-Colour Society. There seems to be a great want of good figure-men both in the old and new societies, and the moment an artist of any promise in that line turns up his election is almost a matter of certainty.

The lovers of the ceramic art have lately been enjoying a treat in being permitted to view a magnificent desert-service-manufactured for the Prince of Wales by Mr. Alderman Copeland, and exhibited at his London establishment, in New Bond-street. Every resource of the potter's and artist's skill has been brought to bear in producing this service, and the result is a really magnificent achievement, and one which is sure to add greatly to the renown of the manufacturer. The design was the work of the late Mr. Thomas Battam, who died before the work was completed; but his ideas have been admirably carried out by Mr. Joseph Durham, Mr. F. Miller, Mr. G. Halse, and M. Hürten, who have all exerted themselves in their several departments with marvellous success.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Blackwood this month opens with a review or analysis of "A Religious Novel." The specimen selected and dealt with under this title is Miss Wetherell's story of "The Old Helmet." I have not read that, but I have read other books of Miss Wetherell's; I think her a very nice, kindly writer, of about the middle forms of Miss Austen's school; full of generous intent, and, above all things, perfectly pure. Purity is no great praise to anyone; no praise at all to a woman or a child; but it must be signalled in this case, because it is what is now called in question by the writer in *Blackwood*. It is a little suspicious to find that he cannot even spell the lady's name properly; and I find, on running the eye down the columns, that he is totally incompetent to his task. I do not admire the sentimental novel, and have never written one line in praise of Miss Wetherell or her school (except, indeed, as to a child's book, "Casper"); but the critic in *Blackwood* is a mere man of the world (who may also, perhaps, be a High Churchman), who is no more fit to judge of the place "kissing" would take in the mind of Miss Wetherell, or her young lady-heroes, than a blacksmith's tongue to pick up a butterfly with. He uncovers his own mind—*stultè nudabit*, &c.—not his author's, in the criticisms he makes; though, I repeat, I do not admire this kind of book. The political article in *Blackwood* has gone back again to its usual place—at the end of the magazine. The best part of the number lies in one of those admirable financial articles which *Blackwood* so often gives us. "Miss Marjoribanks" and the O'Dowd are as usual. But, on page 367, we find "grief" called "a great principle." What next? Somebody will be calling it a prime postulate or a necessary idea, after a bit, I suppose.

The *Cornhill* may glory in the supreme readableness of Mr. Trollope's story "The Claverings." His conversation-pieces are, as they always were, admirable. And what an air of the best society he always throws over even the least scene of his stories. Mr. Matthew Arnold has a paper on "Celtic Literature," and now, I suppose, we shall see placarded about "Mr. Matthew Arnold and the Celts." Then we have "Notes on the Cattle Plague," which is an admirable paper; and "A Visit to the Suez Canal," with a map, which is extremely interesting. I may note, in passing, that Miss Ingelow's poetry is being picked up by people's memories and passing into commonplaces of quotation. In line 12, page 365, there is a fragment (correctly quoted?) out of her poem called "A Dead Year," inserted with merely inverted commas. From the paper on the cattle plague I quote a short passage:—

HOW A NATIONAL PRAYER IS GOT UP.

One Archbishop is first ordered by the Queen to prepare a prayer on a given subject; this done, he is required to submit it for approval to the Lords of the Privy Council. These gentlemen, we are told, commonly make some alteration in it, sufficient, at least, to maintain their right to alter what they please. It has been said that a member of the Privy Council many years ago, anxious to reassure the minds of those who feared "such Puseyite nonsense as the independence of the Church," remarked that "no one who had ever been present at a meeting of Privy Council and seen the Archbishop stand waiting while the lay members of the Council were reading and altering his prayer, would ever again talk about that." The prayer, after being duly operated on, is sent, as it were, bleeding from all its wounds, to the Queen's printer, and is thence dispatched to the parochial clergy, who are ordered to read it aloud in their respective churches, and read it is accordingly.

There are some lighter papers, which seem to be good.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The Prince of Wales exercises a considerable influence over the fate of theatre-goers, as well as of theatre-managers, for it seems that whenever his Royal Highness goes to the theatre the evening's programme has to undergo some important alteration, and that at the last moment. So it turned out that those who had paid their money to see the first performance of "She Stoops to Conquer" at the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE, on Monday last, found when they entered the theatre that, by special desire of the Prince of Wales, the "School for Scandal" was to be played instead. I often hear complaints of the snobbish manner in which the good-natured, much-suffering British public behaves whenever it happens to meet Royalty in a theatre; but what is it to look at, when it goes to see a play which it has not seen for perhaps some years, and finds itself "let in" for a comedy which it saw last week? If it finds any pleasure in staring at Royalty, Royalty should not complain if, on such an occasion, the good old B.P. allows itself a little indulgence, for Royalty brings it on itself.

The management of that theatre has done wisely in adhering to the successful policy which dictated the selection of legitimate comedy. The "School for Scandal" was successful, and I hope that the revival of "She Stoops to Conquer" will be equally so. It is not very satisfactorily placed upon the stage; the scenery is seedy, and the dresses are anachronous; but Goldsmith's words, especially those of them that are put into the mouth of Miss Herbert, require but little adventitious aid to recommend them to a West-End audience. The appearance of Mr. Walter Lacy in Tony Lumpkin excited no little curiosity among regular theatre-goers; and, with all respect to that excellent actor, I cannot help thinking that he is as much out of place in that character as Mr. Frank Matthews is in that of Clown in the "Manageress in a Fix." He has nobly consented, at length, to sacrifice that moustache which so completely disfigured his "make-up" as Charles Surface, and he has kindly contented to wear a curly, red wig for the occasion; but, nevertheless, he is not Tony Lumpkin. He is more like the imitation that intelligent wags give of Mr. Compton at small suburban parties than anything else, and he is not much like that. However, I am bound to admit that his performance as Tony Lumpkin is much better than I expected it to be. Miss Herbert plays Miss Hardcastle with a ladylike grace that no actress on the stage can wear as well as she; and Mrs. Frank Matthews and Miss Bufton played Mrs. Hardcastle and Miss Neville as well as I could wish to see these parts played. Some words of commendation are also due to Mr. Clayton, a young gentleman who made his first appearance on Monday as Hastings. He is young, good-looking, and gentlemanly in his bearing; he gives his words with distinctness; and will probably prove a valuable addition to a company not too well provided with "young gentlemen."

The "Merchant of Venice" has been revived at DRURY LANE, with Mr. Phelps as Shylock and Mrs. Hermann Vezin as Portia. I see that the STRAND advertises a revival of Mr. H. J. Byron's burlesque of "Ivanhoe" on Saturday, *vice* Mr. Burnand's "Africaine," played out. But Mr. Burnand is only shelved for a time; he will appear in the bills on Easter Monday with a new classical burlesque, not, I trust, with original music.

Mr. John Parry's new entertainment, the "Wedding Breakfast," was produced on Monday last, with the success that characterised "Mrs. Roseleaf's Evening Party" and "Mrs. Roseleaf at the Seaside." The entertainment is divided into three parts—the half-hour before the breakfast, the breakfast itself (represented by a delicious little everest from a genuine banquet), and the bride's

departure. The whole entertainment is introduced by a rattling patter-song, given as Mr. Parry alone can give it; and the subsequent delineations of the bashful bridegroom (Mr. Yeany); the miming, giggling bride; the timid, fluttering bridesmaids; and Colonel and Mrs. Roseleaf, are given with a distinct individuality in each case which leaves you under the impression that you have been spending the evening with at least a dozen different persons instead of with one modest, unassuming-looking gentleman, in quiet evening dress, whose only "properties" are a piece of wedding-table and a bouquet. Perhaps his best impersonation is Mr. O'Lympus, an antiquary, who in returning thanks for the bridesmaids, begins with the ancient Greeks and finishes with the year one.

A LOUNGER IN DUBLIN.

ONE evening last week I took a return ticket for Dublin from Euston station. Pleasure could scarcely be the object of such a trip. Perhaps, had I asked myself, like Sir Patrick Spens, in the old ballad,

O wha is this has done this deed,
This evil deed to me,
To send me out, this time o' the year,
To sail upon the sea?

the answer might have been, concisely enough, expressed in the phrase now in every one's mouth—the Fenians. I had many friends in Dublin, and wished to ascertain from personal observation and inquiry the effect of the seditious movement upon the Irish capital. My fellow-travellers in the railway carriage, all Irish, and good fellows enough, were curiously reticent upon the subject of Fenianism. They told good stories, and appreciated them when told; but the slightest allusion to this one topic always sufficed to cause a change of the conversation. We reached the Holyhead mail-packet about three a.m., and received the comforting assurance from the sailors that we should have a rough passage. I will not attempt to describe how, during four hours, upon that black sea which in its depth, fierceness, and sudden variability from calm to tempest, always reminds me of what one reads of Irish character, the gale (dead against us) howled, whistled, and roared. There was no keeping one's feet upon deck, nor, for me, sleeping in the cabins. But the most wonderful thing was, that in spite of all, the sea seemed so little disturbed. "It's just like Fenianism," said an Irishman, to whom I afterwards described the passage; "it's noisy and pretentious, but not dangerous when opposed by proper precautions." And truly, I could not but think myself as safe, in the Royal Irish Mail packet, as if in bed in Belgrave. Nothing short of a wind that would unroof a modern well-built house would be likely to interfere with the regularity of the transmission of the penny-post letters by that route.

The transition from black night to broad day was marvellously sudden. My longest nap was for half an hour, and this, beginning by lamplight, ended with full daylight. A step to the side brought me in full view of the Hill of Howth and Ireland's Eye (the scene of the Kirwan tragedy), on the right; and the Wicklow mountains, among which the Sugar Loaf and the Three Rock (so called from the curious group of five rocks upon its summit) were clearly distinguishable, streaked with snow halfway down, upon the left. A man-of-war, with guns already run out, appeared broadside on towards the harbour of Kingstown. But the good ship is, it appears, stationed there permanently as a training-vessel. "A few shots 'ud soon make splinters fly there," said one of my Irish fellow-travellers. "Those wooden things are no use at all except for coast defence." This happened to be precisely the duty upon which our timber friend appeared to be employed.

Lounging through the streets of the city of Dublin, I took particular note of the gunmakers' shops. Rifles, carbines, and revolvers were certainly in the majority, as compared to fowling-pieces. I saw in one small shop a lot of pistols and revolvers ticketed to be sold at half price, and felt no envy towards unlucky purchasers who might be tempted to fire them. They were of the commonest description, and bore no proof-marks—the "Gunmakers' Act," in this respect, does not apply to Ireland. The next circumstance to be remarked was, that the policemen—costumed after the English fashion, and here universally termed "Bobbies," as by some classes in London—wore swords, just as our metropolitan police did in 1848. The police and the "constabulary" are here quite different bodies. The latter wear dark-green uniforms, and carry rifles and bayonets. The policemen are also called "Hornies," perhaps from their buttons. The constabulary are not seen within the municipal bounds.

The arms and accoutrements seized in connection with the Fenian section are deposited at Dublin Castle, where I was permitted to see them. I saw hundreds of pike heads; in fact, the whole of the stages of the pike from the first rough squaring of the staves, of American ash, and resembling what builders call "scantlings," to the complete weapons, with sharpened edges as well as points, were here represented. I was shown the curiosities of all the modern attempts at Irish rebellion. Here was the rough pike of 1798; the halbert of 1848, fashioned after the manner of a Lochaber axe, with an edged hook for cutting bridles of cavalry; and the skull which some "Repaler" attached to the knocker of Mr. Kemmis, the Crown Solicitor, on the night following the conviction of O'Connell. This was in the "lost property office," and our guide, who opened the door with a key, which he facetiously called a "letter of introduction," was kind enough to tell us that the right owner might have it on application. It is a curious place, this lost property office. The articles, weapons excepted, lying without owners, appear to be chiefly walking-sticks, women's fur victorias, and boys' caps. There is a ham pendant from the ceiling, and a full field marshal's uniform, which formerly belonged to the late Mr. M'Manus, whose funeral was celebrated with a demonstration in Dublin some years ago. The coat is very gay, of emerald-green, with black frogs, gold-embroidered shamrocks, and white belts. Here are also a few revolvers, some carbines, and a wretched "duffing" Birmingham double-barrel fowling-piece, with sham twisted barrels, which I would warrant to injure the shooter for life at the first discharge. Also a big egg-chest, half filled with Enfield rifle-bullets, Government size, but cast, not pressed, as in army cartridges. These, I was told, were the work of a labourer in the employment of a famous Dublin firm, which was named. I heard of this man afterwards in the counting-house of the firm itself. The casket of the bullets had been seized with a fever, immediately consequent upon the finding of his contribution to Fenianism. Nor was his an exceptional case. The nervous agitation of the would-be rebels—the sudden alternation between their hopes of massacre and triumph and their terror of arrest, combined with the evident collapse of the conspiracy, has already prostrated many of them.

"You should have seen the streets before as well as after the suspension," said a friend to me as we passed the deserted office of the *Irish People*. "Two or three days ago there were hundreds of fellows, in slouched hats and American square-toed boots, gathered in knots of eight or nine at every few yards of the pavement and at every corner. Now, not one is to be seen. They ran for it, to Liverpool and Holyhead, in such numbers that there was scarcely room for stowage of the goods."

I was shown, on the doors about Rathmines and Rathgar, the crosses which were supposed to denote that the inmates were marked for ejection, pillage, and slaughter. I doubt the fact, nevertheless—firstly, because my various friends were all well-known Loyalists, and their doors were unmarked; secondly, because even the police did not know whether the marks were intended to denote sacrifice or protection; thirdly, because the crossing the door is a common pious custom among the Irish peasantry, although certainly not generally followed so near Dublin; but then, as I was told, it might only have been a freak on the part of a few street ruffians, in this case, which caused such alarm when noted by the *Times*.

I was introduced to one man whom a common friend jocularly described as a "Fenian centre." He avowed himself no Loyalist. Said he: "These Fenians are utter cowards. I have seen two of their so-called 'head-centres,' one at Callan, the other at—, taken off, each by two constables, followed by a crowd of Fenians,

and not one dared to lift a finger. One fellow whom they arrested as a 'centre' was the keeper of a low beer-shop which I wouldn't have passed without buttoning my coat for fear of a hand being thrust out to pick my pocket. . . . The way to upset this movement is for the Prince of Wales to come over here and spend his money. He ought to be our Head Centre. There would soon not be a Fenian left in Ireland. We'd have you the Queen." From other sources I learned that the Prince had given grave offence on his late visit by driving through by ways and concealing himself by drawing down the green blinds of his carriage.

This is the great safety of the Government: I was told, upon authority from the Castle, that, one day last week, when a rising was projected for the same night, informers came to the officials, "in troops," all to give full intelligence. What must have been the feelings of every separate individual traitor when he found himself among a mob of his friends and co-conspirators all bent upon mutual betrayal?

There remains for me space enough to touch but upon one or two more topics. Upon these, be it observed, I give no opinion, but simply chronicle those gathered from the best sources during my brief sojourn. There is no doubt that the power and the objects of Fenianism have been underrated in England. Already the brotherhood boasts of having enrolled 50,000 soldiers, and all the militia. "Divide this by half, for the truth," as one of my friends said, "and still the danger is grave enough." Another observed, "It is all very well for you in England to deride Fenianism. But if you had, as I have had, to lie awake by night, expecting a rising, and ready to fire out of window to signal the police-station, you wouldn't think that so lively. They are all Fenians here to a man, except the big tradesmen and merchants, and the officials. Loyalists are the exception. The petty tradesmen are compelled to subscribe to 'the fund,' or lose their customers. It is not a matter of religion at all, but purely of politics. In 1848, Smith O'Brien was a Protestant, as were most of the leading rebels. The seized number of the *Irish People* advocated national independence of the priest-hood."

Another opinion was thus put: "Fenianism means nothing more than general plunder, massacre, and anarchy. The lower classes are urged by Yankee adventurers to attack the authorities and the wealthy. They pretend to wish to establish a republic and a nationality. In order to do this, they propose to start by annihilating trade and manufacture, by slaughtering employers, destroying property, and going to war with the greatest and best-established empire in the world."

I believe, as do all with whom I have conversed in Dublin, that there is no danger of a general rising. But the present conspiracy, broken up into segments, may, nevertheless, develop itself in terrible cases of outrage upon private dwellings in isolated districts. Already the effect has been to paralyse trade. At a famous silk-mercer's establishment I was told that they had not suffered much, only because Lady Waldegrave (Mrs. Chichester Fortescue) had been giving a series of magnificent soirées, spending, and causing to be spent in trade, more than any four Lady Lieutenants had ever done in the same time. In other businesses matters were very different. Tenements in leading thoroughfares are marked "To Let" to such an extent as is never seen in any city or town in England. The quays are comparatively deserted. The employers of labour are leaving hastily, each mail taking away twice as many passengers as it brings in. Vans laden with furniture may be seen in the streets, en route for England. Building is stopped; capitalists not only fly, but withdraw their money from the banks and from Irish investments. The results of all this must be obvious enough. The withdrawal of capital will fall heavily on all classes, but most terribly upon the poor. In a very short time the bulk of the present subscribers to Fenianism in Dublin will be "out of work." The small shopkeepers will be ruined by the impecuniosity of their former customers. Ireland will be thrown back for years by this insane and murderous edition—the work of mischievous Yankee propagandists. The chief hope of self-advancement on the part of the low Irishman will be that of reward from spying and information. And, in the event of a rising, the plans of the Government have been, I was told, already decided upon. No Riot Act is to be read, no warning given, no blank cartridge fired. On the first assemblage of a mob the troops are to be called out, the artillery ordered to the front, and the streets to be cleared by grape and canister, followed by volleys from small arms, and charges by dragoons, if necessary. I do not think that "the pike, the queen of weapons," as its Irish admirers love to call it, would stand much chance against such a stern order of battle as this; or that it would be of much use for the unfortunate Fenians to wait for the cavalry in the hope of discomfiting them by cutting their brides with hooks at the ends of ash poles.

"THE PET LAMB."

WHEN will this picture cease to be of interest to hundreds of men and women who become children as they look at the simple story so touchingly told, and who hold up their own little ones to learn the lesson that it teaches? There is such a touch of homely pathos in the whole composition—such a genuine, honest appreciation of household sympathy—such a true and distinct Englishness (if we may coin a word) in the very details that help to render it significant, that none of us need wonder at the lasting fame that has been accorded to it.

One of the most wonderful realisations in the whole realm of art is the face of that butcher's boy, and the evidence which its expression affords that he has not yet forgotten his own earlier natural sympathies, and, at the same time, that he professionally regards them as weaknesses. The look with which he submits to be impeded in his intention to take possession of the lamb is full of such wistful deprecation, and is at the same time so pitying and so humorous, that we almost instinctively feel in our pockets for a shilling to give to a lad who has preserved the kindness of his nature against such odds. In truth, the beauty and true sentiment of the picture lies in the absence of any striving after false effect.

Many artists of the modern school would have sensationalised the whole situation by depicting a truculent butcher-boy, eager for a cruel distinction, seizing upon the poor little yearling with dramatic energy. There is nothing of this kind in Mr. Collins's honest, homely picture of English life. The bargain of the elders is made from some dire necessity, no doubt, and the pet must be carried away after the last lingering resistance of the children, who have fed and cherished it; but no fictitious sentiment is needed to enhance the interest of the scene, and for that reason it appeals directly to our hearts. Our readers will, we are sure, welcome this addition to the Engravings with which we are able to present them from time to time along with our usual Numbers.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON ON SCIENCE AND RELIGION.—On Sunday afternoon the Bishop of London preached at the Chapel Royal, Whitehall. His Lordship (who seemed far from well) took his text from 1 Timothy iii. 15. "The house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth," and proceeded to show how far the Church of England answered the definition of a church in the articles, and how it fulfilled its special mission. Its duty, he said, was to express and guide the religious feeling of the nation. There were many alarmed just now at a possible split of the Church into two parties—the clergy treading one path and the laity the other, the clergy becoming more superstitious and the laity too freethinking, though all freethinking might not be confined to the laity or all superstition to the clergy, for some laymen might take a clerical tone and some clergymen ape the dangerous scepticism of the laity. It would not do, as in some countries, for religion to be confined to priests and women, and all the manhood and intellect of the age to be left to the corroding influence of scepticism. There was and could be no antagonism between religion and the exercise of man's intellect; superstition and scepticism were antagonists, but superstition was the base counterfeit of religion and so was scepticism of reason. Reason must not be frowned down; doubt must not be called atheism, or inquiry sin. Of late many questions, long since thought settled, had been reopened as to the nature of inspiration, the mode of reconciling miracles with the fixed laws of the universe, &c. In what we sometimes call the torpid days of religion, a host of brilliant weapons had been furnished to Truth's armoury by men like Butler and others girding themselves manfully to confront the infidels, and they must learn to abstain from senseless clamour or subjecting those who diverged from the belief of ill-informed people to abuse as abettors of error.

Literature.

A Selection from the Poetry of Elizabeth Barrett Browning.
London: Chapman and Hall.

Hundreds of the readers of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES will remember one fine morning in July, 1861, seeing in their newspaper the startling line, "Death of Mrs. E. B. Browning," and of that number how many will remember feeling the blow so near and personal a one that it seemed scarcely possible for days to go about ordinary business at all, and assuredly not possible to do it without deep, abiding sadness? We have heard old stagers say that the death of Lord Byron was felt by half the young men in England like the loss of a brother; but in our own time we doubt if the death of any writer was ever so deeply felt as that of Mrs. Browning, at Florence, on the 29th of June, 1861. To those who had learned to love her this book makes a strong appeal. It contains not only the "poetry," selected and arranged by her husband, but a seraphic little face of the poetess "in early youth," and an engraving from a picture of a "Sitting-room in Casa Guidi," which we are intended to infer shows us the room just as this divine woman left it to die. We are sure nobody who but casts his eye upon this exquisite face of the lady in "early youth" will quarrel with the word divine. It is like a face out of "Hyperion," or you might identify it with a face of which Mr. Tennyson gives you a glimpse. When we opened the volume we thought to ourselves, Where have we seen that face? We had seen it nowhere, except in fancy, and what the fancy was will be gathered from a few lines which the reader will at once remember in their proper place:—

Close over us, the silver star, thy guide,
Shines in those tremulous eyes that fill with tears.
A soft air fans the cloud apart; there comes
A glimpse of that dark world where I was born.
Once more the old mysterious glimmer steals
From thy pure brow.
Thy cheek begins to redden thro' the gloom,
Thy sweet eyes brighten slowly close to mine,
Ere yet they blind the stars, and that wild team
Which loves thee, yearning for thy yoke, arise,
And shake the darkness from their loosened manes,
And beat the twilight into flakes of fire.

Something not definable seemed to hover in the air, at the time of the lady's death, which hinted that she had been killed—had died of a broken heart. We shall be understood. Who can forget the heart-breaking pathos of poor, stupid old Tulliver's dying murmurs—"Raskill! . . . Does God forgive raskills? Kiss me, my lass! this world's been too many for me!" Nothing can prevent one's thinking that the world had been too many for this daughter of the gods. In her late writings there was audible above the melody the scream of a wrenched nature, not the complaint of a tortured prisoner that is about to give in, but such a shriek that we feel as if at one more turn of the pulley this victim, at all events, will bleed at the mouth and die. People do die in this way, strange as it may appear to some people; die merely of that "wickedness of the world" which does not affect most of us unless it hits us personally.

We unhesitatingly range ourselves with those critics who are of opinion that the gift of the gods was richer and purer in Mrs. Browning than in any other living writer. In melodic power she was simply incomparable: it is out of the question to name anyone in the same breath with her. On the other hand, she wanted dramatic power, though she had perfect dramatic insight. She lacked the reticence, the "retarding art" of the perfect poet. So much breadth of vision was never before seen, surely, in connection with such perfect purity. But the eye that sees is an eye that is not level with what is seen, and the voice is a voice in the air above you. But we forbear, lest in a casual notice like this we should do the poetess any injustice. Mr. Browning has prefixed to the volume a few words which are of a wonderful touching modesty. How many critics does he suppose there are in England who are competent to tell him where he might have "done better" in choosing and arranging these poems of his illustrious wife? One thing Mr. Browning may be sure of—that the death of his wife has drawn closer to him, along with the devotion to her memory, the love and homage of Englishmen.

The volume, we will only add, contains all the old "favourites"—Bertha in the Lane, The Cry of the Children, The Sleep, The Sonnets from the Portuguese, The Rhymer of the Duchess May, The Ransom of the Page, The Lay of the Brown Rosary, and so on. Scarcely anything will be missed by the accustomed reader that he could expect in a selection. We warmly recommend the book.

Raphael Santi, his Life and his Works. By ALFRED BARON VON WOLZOGEN. Translated by F. E. BUNNETT. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

Mr. Bunnett, having done some work in translating, especially in "The Life of Michael Angelo," was desirous of finding some concise memoir of Raphael to form a companion volume to his former work. This he has found in the eulogistic pages of Baron von Wolzogen, whose merits, however, are far more of the industrious than the original class, but which does not destroy the value of the book for those who cannot give up a lifetime to the study of one subject. Considering that, as the Baron says, Raphael literature already fills a library of its own, and that even Passavant's three volumes from Leipzig contain various papers and pamphlets in which Raphael is not the sole subject, it does, indeed, seem that there is room for something within ordinary limits, and there is a general feeling in favour of a cessation from the making of big books. The Baron appears to have conscientiously gone through the "Raphael literature," and his pages are closely studded with enormous extracts in proof. Thus there is little more than a compilation before us, but that is of good material. More than anything else is the book a critical catalogue of Raphael's works. There are no new biographical points, and all the doubtful ones remain uncleared up. His loves, his knowledge of engraving, and the real cause of his early death, remain mysteries; whilst such a little novelty as is hazarded is occasionally open to grave censure. The Baron's enthusiasm runs away with him when he insists that Raphael and Michael Angelo were less of rivals and much better friends than has always been supposed, and makes no attempt at proving the assertion. But he is correct enough in adopting early and later criticism on the character as well as the genius of the man, both of which were likely enough to repel rather than to attract them. Raphael's style in art is described as uniting the high with the charming and touching; that of Michael Angelo as being all high; and with their personal characters the same description holds good. When the Baron is strictly original, he is frequently strictly incomprehensible; and his carelessness may be instanced by the dates given of Raphael's birth and death. "Raphael first saw the light on Good Friday, March 28, 1483" (p. 22). "The artist died at the age of thirty-seven, on the anniversary of the day of his birth, April 6, 1520" (p. 182). And the epitaph says, "Died, on the anniversary of his birth, on April 7, 1520" (p. 184). The Good Fridays may be called anniversaries in one sense, but not as far as the calendar is concerned; and the April 6 and April 7 clash within two pages. Moreover, at page 22, we are told, "He was the third of four children, who, however, all died young." Either only three of them died young, or Raphael was a child when he died at thirty-seven.

It will be observed that Raphael's family name is restored to its ancient style. An excellent photographic portrait accompanies the memoir.

The True History of a Little Ragamuffin. By the Author of "A Night in a Workhouse." London: S. O. Beeton.

Mr. James Greenwood, whose remarkable letters descriptive of a night in a workhouse, published in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, have excited so much interest, has, perhaps, been the most-talked-of literary man in England for some weeks past. Every one was

struck with the marvellous powers of graphic description displayed in the famous *Pall Mall Gazette* papers; every one was anxious to know the name of the author; and when, despite a certain air of mystery which for a time was kept up about the matter, the authorship was at length disclosed, every one acknowledged that the "Amateur Casual" was no ordinary man. Of course, to us and those who, like us, happened to be conversant with Mr. Greenwood's writings, the talent exhibited in portraying the horrors of the Lambeth Workhouse was no surprise. We knew the man—what he had done, and what he could do; and had made up our mind as to the authorship of the *Pall Mall* letters before we had read them half through. The appearance of a work from the same pen, and dealing with life of a like character to that displayed in the Lambeth casuals' shed, will be hailed with satisfaction by the public, who will, we are sure, buy and read the book by thousands. "The True History of a Little Ragamuffin" details the career of one of those pariahs of the streets of London who are much too numerous, and who were largely represented at the supper to homeless boys in the Parker-street Refuge a few nights ago; but who, we trust, will become fewer ere long through the effort inaugurated on that occasion. The present work, describing as it does the trials, temptations, sufferings, and crimes of one of the uncared-for waifs of society, cannot fail to aid the movement on their behalf, and will, therefore, be productive of much good. The Little Ragamuffin is the son of a costermonger of the rudest sort, who lives in Fryingpan-alley, near Cow-cross. He has much to endure from his father and still more from his stepmother, and finally runs away from home and begins that kind of "life in the streets" which conducts so many of his class to the police-cell, the convict prison, and sometimes to the gallows. Pocket-picking, of course, is the sort of crime he takes to at first; then follow petty larcenies of various kinds, which course of life introduces the Ragamuffin to queer scenes and queer characters, all which are most graphically described. We cannot, however, follow the hero's miserable career in detail. Suffice it to say, that he is never wholly lost to a sense of the evil courses on which he is embarked, and that ultimately, when taken in hand by a certain Long George Hopkins, who promises to teach him "his trade," and when said trade turns out to be that of burglar, our Little Ragamuffin gives his patron the slip, is instrumental in frustrating a burglary planned by Long George and his confederates, and obtains a new start in life under the auspices of the police. The book closes with the account of the capture of the would-be burglar; but in a note at the end we are informed that the young wail was sent to a reformatory, where he was taught industry and honesty; that he emigrated to Australia, was fortunate, made money, and returned, with the intention of doing all he could to aid other Little Ragamuffins whenever he had an opportunity—a determination in which we trust he will be imitated by many who never had the same reasons for sympathising with the woes and temptations of the class to which he once belonged. The book is most interesting throughout, and is profusely illustrated. It should be read by everybody.

The Parables of Jesus. The Friends of Jesus. By the Author of "Doing and Suffering." London: John F. Shaw and Co.

These are two more volumes of the pretty little series of stories told out of Scripture incidents by an author whose other books must by this time be familiar to the youth of most religious families. The stories are supposed to be told in conversations between a lady and her little children, and the thread of the narrative is here and there broken by the commentaries of the young folks and the mother's explanations. "The Parables" include "The Sower," "The Good Shepherd," "The Hidden Treasure," "The Wicked Husbandmen," "The Labourers in the Vineyard," &c. "The Friends of Jesus" embraces the story of "The Good Samaritan;" "Martha, Mary, and Lazarus;" "The Withered Figtree;" "The Loaves and Fishes;" "The Marriage Feast," &c. The title of this volume is, perhaps, not quite appropriate, for it treats more of the sayings and doings than of the friends of Jesus; but this, of course, is not of much consequence. Both books are neatly printed, and are each illustrated by eight plain and two coloured engravings—the latter executed by Leighton Brothers.

Haydn's Dictionary of Dates. Twelfth Edition, corrected to February, 1866. By BENJAMIN VINCENT. London: Moxon and Co.

When the "Dictionary of Dates" was first published by the late Mr. Haydn, in 1841, it was at once perceived that one of the most useful, convenient, and valuable works had been given to the public that had ever issued from the press; and, despite some faults and shortcomings, the book continued to gain in public estimation so rapidly that no less than six editions were exhausted before 1855, when the author died, leaving the task of completing the preparation of a seventh issue, upon which he was then engaged, to the present editor, Mr. Benjamin Vincent, secretary and keeper of the library of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. Mr. Vincent, after due consideration, entered upon his task with spirit and energy; and, finding that in some respects the execution of the work was far from being equal to the merit of its conception, he set himself at once to rectify the defects. The work, in Mr. Vincent's hands, has passed through five more editions, the present being the twelfth, and has been gradually revised, corrected, extended, and completed; so that we have now, we believe, the most perfect book of the kind in existence. The aim of the editor has been to make the volume not a mere dictionary of dates, but a dated encyclopedia, a digested summary of every department of human history brought down to the very eve of publication. On looking into the book we find that he has been eminently successful in carrying out his design, and that he has indeed supplied us with a most perfect book of reference.

Debrett's Illustrated Peerage of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Under the immediate Revision and Correction of the Peers. 1866.

Debrett's Illustrated Baronetage, Knightage, and House of Commons. 1866. London: Dean and Son, &c.

Debrett's Peerage, as well as the Baronetage, &c., which bears the same name, have long been well-known standard books of reference; and it will, therefore, be unnecessary to say more about the present issue of the two handsome volumes than that they have been carefully corrected up to the present time, on the best of all authority—that of the parties concerned themselves. A vast mass of useful information is given in a concise and convenient shape; and the volumes are illustrated by engravings of the coats of arms of each peer and baronet. The work is kept standing in type, so that alterations can easily be made as occasion requires. Notifications of deaths, marriages, births, and changes of all kinds, are invited by the editor, and every care seems to be taken to secure accuracy up to the latest moment.

Records of 1865. By EDWARD WEST, Author of "Records of 1861," &c. London: E. West.

Mr. Edward West has a peculiar way of recording the events of each year. He takes an occurrence, gives a quotation from the newspapers of the day in reference to some feature of it, and then breaks out into verse in connection therewith. For the merits of the verses we cannot say much; they are just so-so; but the spirit which dictates them is worthy of all commendation. Mr. West is always kindly in his tone, has a keen appreciation of the good displayed in human action, and a hatred of the evil and the mean. For instance, in the opening poem, recording the destruction of the Surrey Theatre, he pays a hearty tribute to the efforts of the employes to save life, and though the rhymes are somewhat molley in their character, they show that there is no molley in the author's heart. We commend the little volume to public notice.

THE SPACE which has been assigned to the exhibition of national portraits is completely filled, and no further offers of portraits can be entertained until next year, when there will be a supplementary exhibition of portraits belonging to the period before 1688.



DEPUTATION OF AMERICAN INDIANS TO THE GOVERNMENT AT WASHINGTON.—SEE PAGE 137.

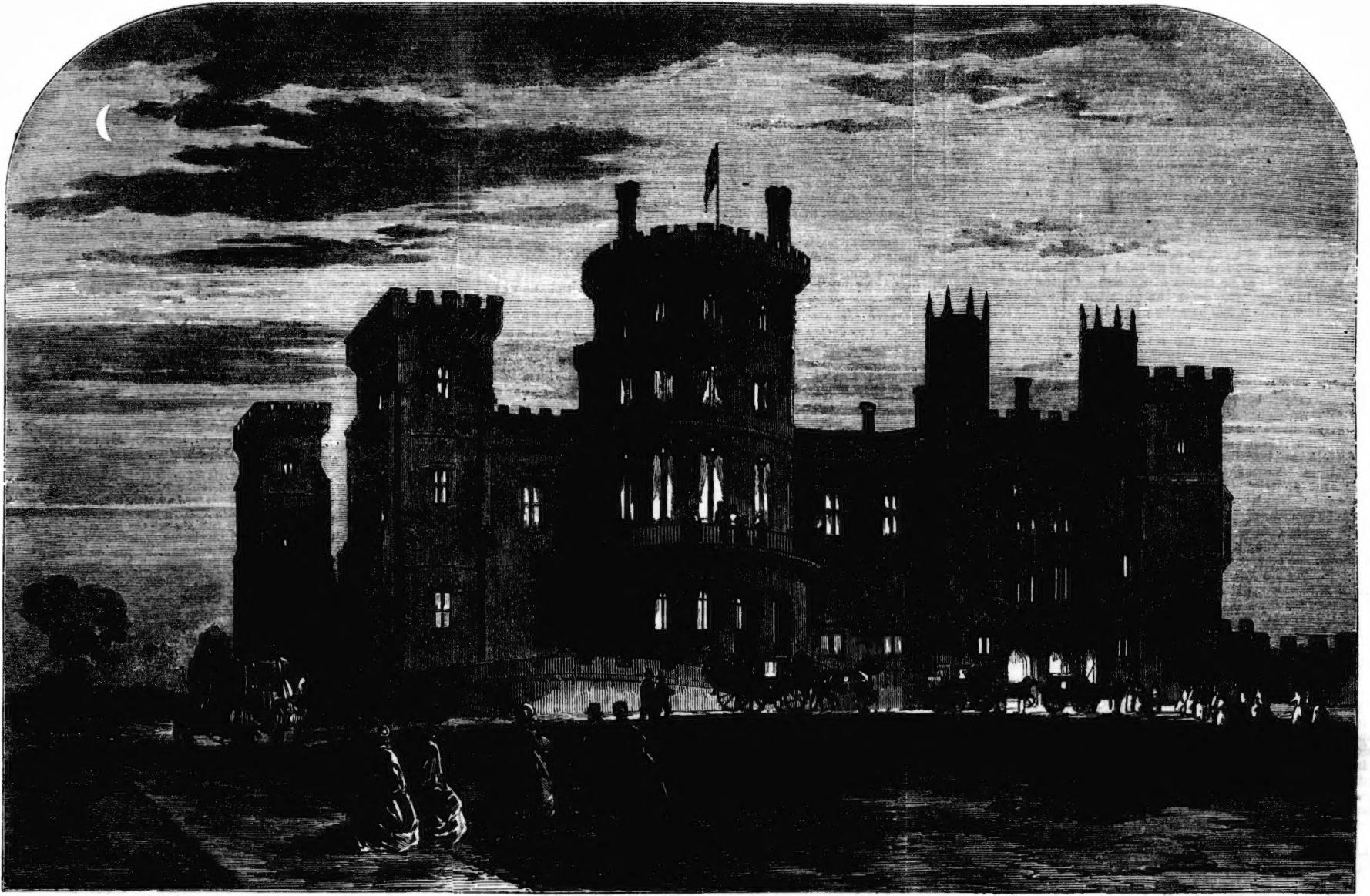
THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES AT BELVOIR CASTLE.

There appeared in one of our contemporaries, the other day, a computation of the number of head of game probably bagged by the Prince of Wales during the present season, and, to judge by figures, his Royal Highness must have been instrumental in bringing down a whole Leadenhall-marketful of birds, hares, and rabbits; for he has been at it all the winter, and has only just terminated his

sporting tour by his visit to the Duke of Rutland at Belvoir Castle. This visit terminated very properly in a sort of sporting tableau; for on the morning of the departure of their Royal Highnesses the whole pack of hounds were brought up to the grass slope immediately under the windows of the gallery, from which the Royal party obtained an excellent view not only of the dogs, but of as picturesque a scene as could well have been devised. The bastion, terrace, and gravel-walks, occupied by gaily-dressed people on foot, by horsemen and horsewomen in silk,

and the road crowded with vehicles of all descriptions, made up a brilliant picture not easily forgotten by the large and distinguished party of guests assembled to do honour to the Royal visit.

It must be gratifying to the Duke of Rutland that he has been able to entertain the heir to the throne in one of the oldest historical houses of England, and it must have been no less gratifying to the Prince to find himself a welcome guest in a castle the legends of which are amongst the earliest records of the country.



BELVOIR CASTLE, GRANTHAM, THE SEAT OF THE DUKE OF RUTLAND.

Of this venerable building Camden says:—"In the west part of Kesteven and the very confines of Lincolnshire and Leicestershire standeth *Belvoir* or *Beauvoir* Castle, so called of the faire prospect (what name soever it had in old time) mounted upon the top of a good steepe hill, built by Robert De Todeneie, a Norman nobleman, who also began the little monastery adjoining, from whom by the *Albeneies* out of little Britaine, and the *Barons Roos*, it came by inheritance to the *mannors* Earles of *Rutland*: of whom the first, that is to say, *Thomas* as I have bene enformed, raised it up againe with new buildings from the ground, when as it had for many yeeres lien buried as it were in his own ruines. For, in despite of *Thomas Lord Roos*, who tooke part with King Henry the Sixth, it was much defaced by *William Lord Hastings*, unto whom (after that the said *Baron Roos* was attainted) King Edward the Fourth had graunted it with very faire lands. But *Edmond Baron Roos*, sonne of the said *Thomas*, by the gracious favour of King Henry the Seventh recovered this ancient inheritance againe. About this castle (continues the

quaint chronicler) are found the stones called *Astroites*, which resemble little starres joyned one with another, wherein are to be seen at every corner five Beames or Rayes, and in every Ray in the midst is small hollownesse. This stone among the Germanes got his name of *Victorie*, for that, as *George Agricola* writeth in his sixth booke of mineralls, they are of opinion that whosoever carryeth it about him shall winne his suite and get victory of his enemies. But, whether this stone of ours, as that in Germany, being put in vinegar, will stirre out of his place and turne itself somewhat round I could never yet make tryall. Under this castle lyeth a vale and presenteth a most pleasant prospect thereunto, whereupon it is commonly called 'the Vale of Belver,' which is very large and passing pleasantly, beautified with corne-fields, and no lesse rich in pastures—going stretched out in three shires of Leicester, Nottingham, and Lincoln."

So much for old Camden, whose description of the beauties of this vale still hold good of one of the most delightful spots of English landscape scenery. Of the building itself a large portion of the ancient structure has been incorporated with the more modern additions, and the Royal party must have felt some curiosity in examining the time-honoured apartments. In the very room occupied during the final luncheon Richard III. had signed the warrant for the execution of Hastings.

Another historical reminiscence was afforded by the visit of the Prince to the Angel Hotel, Grantham, where his Royal Highness changed his attire, and lunched after the hunt, on the 23rd, being

accompanied by his Grace the Duke of Rutland, the Duke of Beaufort, the Earl of Wilton, and several other noblemen. It occurred to Mr. Boyall, the landlord of the Angel Hotel, that 653 years ago that very day—viz., on Feb. 23, 1213, as the patent rolls of his reign prove, King John held his Court in the same room that the Prince of Wales then occupied. This fact was duly made known to his Royal Highness and party by Mr. Boyall.

THE PEOPLE OF THE GABOON.

We last week published full details descriptive of the French settlement on the Gaboon river, and of the people of the country and their manners and customs. We now complete our series of illustrations of the subject by publishing the portraits of some more of the regal personages who hold sway among the natives of that interesting region. Of these individuals all the information attainable at present has already been embraced in our previous article.



MAMBA MANI, ELDEST SON OF KING DENIS.



DENIS, KING OF THE LARGEST TRIBE ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE GABOON.



THE PRINCIPAL WIFE OF KING DENIS.



THE KING OF THE LESSER TRIBE.

PEOPLE OF THE GABOON COUNTRY, AFRICA.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MR. MAPLESON announces that Her Majesty's Theatre will open for the season on the 7th of April. At the Royal Italian Opera the performances will, we believe, begin on the 3rd of the same month. No new engagements have yet been advertised by either manager. It is said, however, that Mr. Gye has secured the services of two new tenors—Signor Nicolini, who has lately been singing with great success at the Italian Opera of Paris; and Mr. Tom Höhler, known in London as an accomplished amateur, and who fulfilled an engagement, last year, at Milan. It is certain that Mlle. Grisi will appear at Her Majesty's Theatre, and we are told that she will recommence her operatic career in the character of Norma. In addition to Mlle. Grisi, who was supposed to have lost her voice, Mlle. Ilma de Murka, who was reported dead, has been re-engaged. Of course Mlle. Titiens, who has never been suspected either of aphonia or of lifelessness, will continue to form part of the company; and it will be interesting to see whether her youthful competitor will succeed in displacing her from the throne of lyric tragedy. The appearance of Mlle. Grisi and Mlle. Titiens side by side in the same opera will, at least, be curious.

The commotion caused in the musical world by the case of "Ryan v. Wood," is by no means at an end. On the one hand, a subscription has been opened for the payment of the defendant's costs; and among the subscribers the name appears of one musician who, in former days, himself officiated in the joint capacity of concert-giver and critic. On the other, the plaintiff is so little satisfied with the result of the action that he has announced, through his solicitor, his intention to take proceedings against the defendant for perjury. In the last number of the *Orchestra*, the correspondence on the subject between the two solicitors will be found. Mr. Ryan's solicitor announces that as Mr. Wood "insisted on the truth of the libels published," and as he "did not attempt to substantiate them, and allowed the same to go forth to the world as true," that he will attack him for perjury committed in the affidavit made on the application for postponement of trial. To this Mr. Wood's solicitor replies that whenever Mr. Ryan may see fit to carry his threat into execution he shall be prepared to meet it. He adds that, having succeeded in his civil action, he is "surprised to find Mr. Ryan seriously contemplating a criminal prosecution against a man who, as he knows, has no personal feeling whatever against him; and of whose hospitality he has, according to his own statement in the witness-box, partaken within the last eighteen months." This is probably the first time that the *argumentum ad ventrem* has been used in a lawyer's letter.

Hitherto the most remarkable, if not the only, morning concert given this season have been the Saturday reproductions of the well-known "Monday Populars." The "Monday Popular Concert" of Saturday last was an excellent specimen of its class. The quartet was led by M. Joachim; Mlle. Arabella Goddard was the pianist; and Signor Piatti the violoncellist. In one piece, Beethoven's trio in C minor, these three admirable artists were heard together. In the opening quartet, led, as was before stated, by M. Joachim, and in which the violoncello was of course taken by Signor Piatti, the intermediate parts (second violin and viola) were assigned to Messrs. Ries and Hann. The vocalist was Mr. Patey. It seemed a pity M. Joachim should have no solo; but both the pieces in which he took part afforded him abundant opportunities for the display of his unrivalled talent. The one solo instrumental performance of the evening was that of Mlle. Arabella Goddard, who executed the difficult but thoroughly beautiful sonata set down for her (Beethoven's sonata in E, dedicated to Count Waldstein) in marvellous style. This is the "symphony for the piano" which, according to M. Lenz, can only have justice done to it by "the steel fingers of a Liszt," and which ought to be entrusted to a series of players, to be employed, like post-horses, stage by stage, or period by period. The author of "Beethoven and His Three Styles" would surely have been satisfied could he have heard the sonata in question played as Mlle. Arabella Goddard played it on Saturday last.

On Tuesday, a pupil of Mr. Benedict's, Miss Ellen Bliss, gave a concert at the Hanover-square Rooms. The programme included some twenty or thirty pieces, in four of which—Beethoven's sonata in D, two fantasias, and a piece by Chopin—Miss Bliss was heard. Miss Bliss is a pianist of considerable acquirements, and she was particularly successful in Liszt's fantasia on the quartet from "Rigoletto," which afforded her ample opportunities for the display of her great executive talent. Mlle. Harriette Lee, after singing, with great taste, the air "Rose Softly Blooming," from Spohr's "Azor and Zemira," introduced a new and very charming song by Mr. Benedict, called "Rock me to sleep." Miss Berry-Greening sang with great effect a new ballad, composed expressly for her by Herr Ganz, and entitled "When we went a-gleaning." A violinist, Herr Rose, who has rarely, if ever, been heard before in London, was particularly successful in a solo by Viëuxtemps. A number of well-known ballads, bravuras, and operatic airs were sung by Miss Adelaide Bliss, Miss Fanny Armitage, Mr. Denbigh Newton, and other vocalists. Mr. Benedict conducted.

THE MERCANTILE MARINE.—A deputation waited upon the President of the Board of Trade on Saturday last to ask that a Royal Commission might be appointed to inquire into the condition of the mercantile marine. It was urged by Mr. Chadwick that many of the losses at sea were owing to the defective education of the seamen, and that something ought to be done to alter this state of things. Mr. Gibson said he was unable to promise that a commission should be issued, but the matter should have his best consideration.

AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA.—We have reason to know that the relations between Austria and Prussia are at present in a much more critical condition than has been generally supposed. Some time ago we told our readers that the acquisition of Schleswig-Holstein was determined on at all hazards by the Prussian Government. In furtherance of this determination Count von Bismarck, finding open annexation inconvenient, is endeavouring to bring about the imposition of the King of Prussia upon the duchies as Duke of Schleswig-Holstein. This is the plan which the Count is now determined to "put through," and which Austria is equally determined to thwart. The compromises proposed to Austria, territorial and otherwise, have been firmly declined, and Austria sees her account in taking a decisive stand at all hazards. She will, therefore, sternly reject all compromise which would deprive the duchies of their independence, and, believing herself just now secure of the good feeling of Hungary and the approval of the Emperor of the French, would, if necessary, draw the sword against her recent German ally. Austria will not begin a war, but is ready in a certain emergency to meet it. This stands the situation at present. Prussia must either give way or accomplish her designs by force.—*Star*.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BEAT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held, on Thursday, at its house, John-street, Adelphi—T. Chapman, Esq., in the chair. Mr. Lewis, the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, rewards amounting to £125 were voted by the institution for saving, by means of its life-boats and shore-boats during the late fearful gales, 120 lives from different shipwrecks. £232 was also voted to the crews of other life-boats of the institution which had put off in reply to signals of distress; but the vessels had in the mean time either got out of danger or their crews had been rescued by other means. On some of these occasions the life-boat crews had incurred much exposure and risk of life during heavy gales. The silver medal of the institution was voted to Mr. W. Taylor, chief officer of constabulary at Robert's Cove, in the county of Cork; to Captain Moreno, of the Austrian barque *Eva*; and to Private Robert Love, of the 63rd Regiment, in admiration of their daring conduct in assisting to save life from the wrecked vessels *Lidia*, of Genoa; a yawl, of Pill; and the brig *Medina*, of North Shields. Various other honorary and pecuniary rewards were granted to several persons who had laudably exerted themselves during the late gales to save life on our coasts. Payments amounting to £2120 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. It was reported that the late Thomas Travers Taylor, Esq., of Southport, had left a legacy of £500 to the institution. The Goldsmiths' Company had forwarded, through Alderman Copeland, an additional donation of £100 to the institution. The Merchant Taylors' Company had also sent £25 to the society; and a donation of £5 had been forwarded from Hamburg, by "One saved, by God's help, by a British life-boat from a wrecked steamer." It was stated that Leicester, Clifton, Cheltenham, and other places were about to present to the institution the cost of life-boats. The annual meeting of the institution was to be held on Tuesday, the 13th inst., at the London Tavern, Earl Percy having kindly promised to preside on the occasion. Mr. Deputy Tegg had presented to the institution one hundred copies of Mr. N. Mitchell's Poem on the Wreck of the *Homeward Bound*. The proceedings then closed.

FINE ARTS.

HILDEBRANDT'S WATER-COLOUR VIEWS OF THE ORIENT.

HERR HILDEBRANDT, whose pictures are now to be seen at the Gallery of the New Water-Colour Society, has a wide Continental reputation. He is a member of the Royal Academy of Berlin, gold medalist of the French Exhibition of '55, and has been appointed Court painter to the King of Prussia, a distinction which, in a land of art like Germany, is not lightly conferred or easily won. In Germany Herr Hildebrandt has long been looked upon as one of the greatest artists of the country, and, to judge from the specimens before us, he undoubtedly deserves to be so considered. His enthusiasm for his art has induced him to make a tour of the world, with a view to depicting all the strangely diversified features of foreign lands, and so enriching his own country with the reproduced beauties of all climes. This was, indeed, an undertaking full of toil and danger, to say nothing of the expense and discomfort inseparable from such extensive journeying; but nothing daunted the courageous artist, who, beginning with Egypt and finishing at San Francisco, made a tour which embraced India, Ceylon, China, Japan, Siam, Manila; in short, all the lands lying between the extremes of his journey. Such a feat would have inclined us to overlook any minor defects in the pictures which resulted from it; but no such favour is needed for these admirable works, in which it is difficult to decide whether we should most admire the skill which reproduces so exactly the loveliness of Oriental lands, or the energy which conceived and carried out the idea of thus seeking the principal places of the East and portraying their peculiarities.

Herr Hildebrandt is completely master of his art. His colouring is brilliant and pure, and his aerial perspective admirable. An open-air clearness characterises all his work, and he paints sunlight splendidly. The solidity he imparts to his buildings is remarkable—if you look at them through a roll of paper, so as to exclude the margin, it is almost impossible to persuade yourself that you are not looking at nature. His studies of sky and water are peculiarly happy, too. We do not remember to have seen the combined transparency and reflecting qualities of water better painted. And to these technical properties the artist adds a feeling for poetry and the beautiful in nature which renders each one of his pictures, no matter how slight, a complete work of the highest art. As an instance of this felicity of treatment, we would point to a view of "The Ladrone Islands" (128), to "Pearl River" (57) at sunset, to "Whampoa, on the Canton River" (52), to a picture of "Agra" (unnumbered), or to the sombre and solemn reproduction of the approach of the dreaded "Typhoon" (105), with the lowering clouds and the lurid horizon, the spread of the waking waves over the low stretches of sand, and the terrified sea-birds gleaming white and ghostly against the rainy pall. Another exquisite picture—a snatch of fairyland itself—is the harbour of "Nagasaki" (108), bathed with the golden sheen of an Eastern sun. Admirable from another point of view is "Life on the River at Canton" (60), a quaint and interesting picture of the teeming water-population, with the thousand and one craft which form their habitations. There are many portraits of individual junks in the gallery, all forcibly hit-off and full of character—"Boats at Macao" (4), with some wonderful water! "Ships of Trade at Hong-Kong" (39); "Mandarin's Jolly-boats" (85), heaving on the long side of a wave; "Pekin Vessels" (65), with painted sails; "Japanese Boats" (116), with quaint canvas; "The Flower-boats" (62) of Canton, and the junks of Bangkok.

Some of the Oriental scenes are curious on account of a strange resemblance, in spite of unmistakably foreign features, to places in the West. For instance, there is a view of "Macao" (7), which, at a hasty glance, might pass for Hastings; while a couple of ruined buildings and a flight of steps in the same city—a view of "The Church of St. Paul" (17)—might almost be a corner of Rome, so much does the architecture resemble in a rude way the old classical forms. Other pictures are interesting on account of their strange local peculiarities, or for the insight they give us into the customs of those strange people, the Chinese and Japanese. Among these we may particularise the interior and exterior of a theatre, or "Sing-song" (25, 26), with the audience swarming inside and out, on the roof and the scaffolding, like flies about a honey-pot, or boys round a sugar-hoghead; the "Temple for Sacrifices" (21), the "Street of the Pirates" (32) at Hong-Kong, (or "Silk" and "Physic" streets in Canton), with the long labels hanging from roof to pavement, announcing the shopkeeper's name and business; the "Chinese Lion" (49), reminding one of the Egyptian monoliths; or the strange "Pagodas" (66), wide "Main Road" (68), and "Circular street" (69) of Peking. "The Temple of the Heavens" (71), with its bright blue porcelain roof; the summer palace, "Yuen-min-Yuen" (73, 74); the "Shanghai Tea-gardens" (87); the extraordinary volcano, "Fusi-Hama" (103), of Japan, and the Indian villages of "Manilla" (126), are all valuable as reproductions of distant scenes, as well as pleasing from the artistic point of view.

We must not close our notice without also drawing attention to the spirited little studies of figures and groups which are interspersed among the views in the excellent collection. Let our readers by all means, when they visit the gallery, devote some time to these graphic notes of costume and custom. Let them mark the vigorous Japanese paddling his sampan in No. 120, or the two confabulating Chinamen squatting on two stones in the rain at Shanghai; and let them smile to see how John Chinaman, when caught in a shower, deliberately closes his umbrella (which he looks on as a parasol, not a *parapluie*), and puts on a thatching of rice-straw in the form of a cloak, as depicted in No. 99.

We do not know how long the collection will remain open; but, as the Institute will, before long, open its own exhibition, the time will probably be short. We should, therefore, recommend those who wish to see the results of a stupendous undertaking—and one not altogether free from peril, as a note to No. 93 indicates—to lose no time. They may not have another opportunity of visiting distant lands with so little trouble, or with so skilful a guide and pleasant companion as Herr Hildebrandt.

PRINCE CHRISTIAN.—If M. Bismarck succeeds in finally settling the question of the duchies to his own satisfaction, one result will be that the future husband of Princess Helena, like Garibaldi, will be a man without a country. This will be of less consequence to Prince Christian probably, if he is to find a new "nursing mother" in England. It is already understood that this alliance is made very much in accordance with her Majesty's desire to keep with her an affectionate daughter—that is to say, that the Prince and Princess will have their fixed residence in England, and near the Queen. But we believe that this intention is to be carried further than the mere arrangement for a permanent residence in this country. It is proposed to make of the Prince a naturalised Englishman forthwith, and to give him an English peerage, with the title of Duke of Kendal. This project—so much of it as relates to the peerage—has been met with strong opposition, as might have been expected; and it is more than probable that it will be carried through.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

LOST IN THE FLOODS.—On Saturday afternoon a labouring man named Horton, in the employ of Mr. Argent, of the Manor Farm, Egham, went into a field on the racecourse in order to look after some sheep. While thus engaged he noticed something lying in a ploughed field called "the Ride," which had been flooded during the recent extensive inundation by the waters of the Thames. As the ground was almost a bog from the large quantity of water which had been lying upon it so long, Horton experienced some difficulty in reaching the spot in question, but on doing so found what he at first imagined was the dead body of a man lying upon his face with the arms and knees imbedded in the mud. Horton at once proceeded to Egham and obtained the assistance of a police constable, with whom, and several other persons, he returned to "the Ride." Upon examining the man it was found that although cold, numbed, and quite insensible, he yet breathed. He was, however, in a most dreadful condition. The poor fellow had evidently lost his way among the water and mud left upon the land from the flood. The unfortunate man was, as soon as possible, conveyed to the Catherine Wheel Inn, Egham, where stimulants were administered, and after a time he slightly recovered, when he was removed to the Old Windsor Union. The name of the poor fellow who was found in such a distressing condition is supposed to be Brown, and his appearance was that of a labouring man. How long he had been struggling about in the mud is not known, but it is conjectured that he must have been upon the spot for several hours, the tracks made by his struggles being easily distinguishable.

OBITUARY.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE.—Among the many losses the House of Lords has sustained within the last few years, none will be more felt than that of Lord Donoughmore, who died a few days ago, aged only forty-two. With a mind stored with information of every kind and on every subject, he possessed rare powers of business, which he brought to bear with excellent practical effect on the various matters of detail which came almost daily before the House during the Session of Parliament. Clear of head and ready of utterance, few speakers in the House of Lords could equal the facility with which he handled almost every subject, and especially all those nice points of law which make Acts of Parliament really workable; indeed, on such matters he could hold his own with the most learned Lord in the House. Lord Donoughmore was also a first-rate chairman of committees, and one whose place it will not be easy to fill up. Vice-President and President of the Board of Trade under the last Conservative Administration, he proved one of Lord Derby's happiest appointments.

THE EARL OF HARRINGTON.—This young nobleman died on the evening of Thursday week at Cannes. Last autumn the young Earl, who had been completing his education at Christ Church, Oxford, left the University to accompany his friend the Duke of Hamilton to Scotland for the shooting season. While there he caught cold. After coming to London to consult the most eminent of the faculty, he was advised to go to a milder climate for the winter. Since his arrival at Cannes he gradually got weaker, and died as above stated. He was born on the 27th of September, 1845 (consequently he had not yet attained his majority), and succeeded to the family honours on the death of his father, in September, 1862. He is succeeded in the earldom by his cousin, Mr. Charles Wyndham Stanhope, eldest son of the late Hon. and Very Rev. Fitzroy Henry R. Stanhope, Dean of St. Burian, by Caroline Wyndham, daughter of the late Hon. Charles Wyndham. The present peer was born in August, 1809; and married, in February, 1839, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. R. L. Pearsall, by whom his Lordship has a numerous family.

SIR CHARLES PHIPPS.—The Court has just suffered a sudden loss in the death of Colonel the Hon. Sir Charles Beaumont Phipps, who died of bronchitis, on Saturday morning last, at his residence, St. James's Palace, after an illness of only two days. The late Baronet was the second son of the first Earl of Minto, by Martha Sophia, daughter of Christopher Thompson Maling, of West Herrington, in the county of Durham. He was born on Dec. 27, 1801, and therefore had entered upon his sixty-sixth year. In 1835 he married Margaret Anne, second daughter of the Ven. Henry Bathurst, Archbishop of Norwich, by whom he has left a family of two sons and two daughters. Sir Charles originally chose a military career, and joined the Scots Fusilier Guards; but when his brother, the late Marquis of Normanby, accepted the governorship of Jamaica, in 1832, he was attached to him as secretary, and in that capacity served for two years. On his relative's returning to Europe and becoming Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in 1835, Sir Charles returned also, and accompanied the new Viceroy to Dublin as steward of the household, an appointment he held till 1839. The enjoyment of these civil posts, however, did not interfere with his military promotion, and in 1837 he was gazetted Lieutenant-Colonel of his regiment, obtaining a full colonelcy in 1851. After acting for a short time as secretary to the Master-General of Ordnance, he was, in August, 1846, made Equerry to the Queen. From this time offices began to multiply upon him. In December of the same year he was made private secretary to his late Royal Highness the Prince Consort, and successively keeper of her Majesty's Privy Purse, treasurer to the late Prince Consort, and treasurer and cofferer to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. In recognition of his services, Colonel Phipps was nominated, in 1851, a Knight Commander (civil division) of the Order of the Bath, and eleven years afterwards he received the last testimony of her Majesty's favour and confidence by being appointed Receiver-General of the Duchy of Cornwall and one of the Council to the Prince of Wales.

GENERAL MICHELL.—At Nice, on the 11th ultimo, after a long and painful illness, Major-General George Bruce Michell died, aged sixty-one. At an early period of his life he proceeded to India as a cadet in the East India Company's Bengal army, and began his military career in the disastrous Burmese War in 1827. His success in the acquisition of the Oriental languages soon led to his appointment as Adjutant to the 9th Regiment of infantry, at that time under the command of Colonel Paul. While holding that post he attracted the notice of the late Sir Robert Sale, G.C.B., who nominated him Acting Brigade-Major of the Agra force. Thus brought under the public eye, he was selected by the Governor-General to raise an infantry corps for his Highness Jankojee Scindia, and it was the fine organisation of that regiment which gained for Captain Michell the repute, which afterwards attached to his name, for ability in forming and disciplining native infantry. Just before entering on the Afghan War it was deemed desirable to send a deputation to the ruler of Lahore, and the present Lord William Osborne was dispatched as the chief of it. An interpreter was to be chosen, a person who was a master of native Court language. The selected person was Captain Michell, and he received at the hands of Lord Auckland a handsome sword for this service. He commanded a regiment at the battle of Punniar, and during the great mutiny the responsible duty of keeping the high road from Sasseram to Benares was assigned him, for which he received the marked approval and thanks of Lord Canning. On his retirement he was made a Major-General, and in 1863 he married Lady Frances Legge, sister of the present Earl of Dartmouth, and leaves issue one son.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

CITY OF LONDON.—Mr. Goschen was, on Monday, re-elected for the City without opposition. The right hon. gentleman thanked the electors for the confidence they had now for the third time reposed in him, and then touched upon the various topics of the day, but held himself excused by his official rank from giving a decided opinion upon any of them.

LEOMINSTER.—Mr. Richard Arkwright was, on Monday, elected member for Leominster, in the room of Mr. G. Hardy, who has elected to sit for Oxford University. There was no contest.

RIPON.—The Right Hon. Sir Charles Wood having been raised to the peerage, under the style and title of Lord Halifax, a vacancy occurred in the representation of the borough of Ripon. This was filled up on Monday by the unopposed return of Lord John Hay, son of the Marquis of Tweeddale.

BRECON.—Lord Brecknock, Liberal, has been returned for this borough without a contest. The vacancy occurred through the death of the late member, Colonel J. L. Watkins.

NORTH LANCASHIRE.—The Marquis of Hartington, Secretary for War, was on Wednesday returned, without opposition, for North Lancashire.

TIVERTON.—The polling at Tiverton took place on Wednesday. At the close the numbers were—Denman (Liberal), 232; Hay (Conservative), 188.

SUNDERLAND.—Mr. Fenwick, the new Civil Lord of the Admiralty, has lost his seat at Sunderland. The election took place on Wednesday, the numbers at the close of the poll being—Alderman Candlish (Radical), 1430; Mr. Fenwick (Liberal), 1296.

MR. GLADSTONE'S MANAGEMENT AS LEADER.—Mr. Gladstone has begun his career as leader of the House of Commons amidst conditions of the most hampering and delicate kind, and yet every one is talking not only of the success of his start, but of its brilliant success. It is not too much to say that in a condition of Parliamentary feeling which might well have daunted any man without unusual confidence in his own judgment—and this Mr. Gladstone certainly has not, and perhaps it is partly due to his self-distrust that he has succeeded as he has—he has thus far steered his course not only so as to satisfy all parties in the House, but so as to accomplish something of much greater importance to his general influence as a statesman—to increase the self-respect of Parliament. This is a kind of influence which, of course, the leader of the House of Commons can exert, in far greater degree, not only than any other single member, but almost than any number of leading members. The leader of the House of Commons sums up, after a debate of moment, in the name, not merely of his party, but of the whole House. We do not mean, of course, that he can express any view which his party disown, but only that he is expected to feel in some degree for all parties; to give the fair weight and estimation to the half-expressed reiterations of the House as well as to its fully-expressed resolves; to do justice to the spirit of his opponents even when he cannot accept their advice; and, above all, to single out from the ideas and feelings which have found expression in the House those which best deserve emphatic record, and the notice of which will do most to raise the tone of future debates. It may be said with some certainty that no leader in the House for many years has discharged this part of his task so ably as Mr. Gladstone is now discharging it. Nor, short as his trial has been, have there been wanting more than one pretty severe test. Even on mere trifles the Chancellor of the Exchequer has shown already that tact, vivacity, and playfulness, the stimulus of which does so much to keep the House in good humour with itself and with its leader. Of course he has not the peculiar cheery humour of Lord Palmerston. But, when stretched on the rack by such inquisitors as Mr. Lowe and Sir Robert Peel, with a view to extorting information on the course of the Government concerning the Catholic University, Mr. Gladstone not only proved an unshakeable witness but one whose replies turned the laugh against his assailants. It was the same with the attempt to press out of him some half-voluntary hint on the subject of reform. Already, then, rather less than three weeks from the assembly of Parliament, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been tried on all points, and, so far, not only not been found wanting, but has taken a higher, and more difficult, and not less successful line than even his great predecessor. He has been pliant in a case in which a fair knowledge of him might have predicted that he would prove inflexible, and therefore brittle; he has been at once inexorable and playful in trifles involving the mere finesse of politics; and on the greater Irish question, without showing any relaxed sense of either the dignity or the authority of the nation or Government, he has spoken in a tone of generous candour and frank regret, amounting almost to humility, which, while it strengthened the hands of the Executive, raised also the self-respect of Parliament, and exalted the whole tone and standard of Parliamentary feeling.—*The Spectator*.

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